

# Been There Done That - #11

---

I begin to type this on deadline night, December 29th. About 3 weeks ago, around the time the Czech Politburo was resigning, I decided I'd run a "guess the date Ceausescu goes" poll. Figured ol' Nicolae'd be around long enough to make it interesting. Unfortunately for the poll, but fortunately for the people of Rumania, we have to come up with a different idea (no, not "guess how late the next Zine Register will be!"), so how about "guess the Superbowl winner." Now remember, I write this before even the wildcard games, but I'm going with San Francisco over Denver. Not particularly close either (are they ever?).

I was all set to tell you about my new life. Then it changed on me again. Sigh. Well, we are about 99 1/2% definite that we are moving to Saint Simon's Island, Georgia, home of Doug Winship, come May. It's a small island off the coast of GA, about an hour north of Jacksonville, lots of beach, golf courses, and a resort, laid back attitude towards life. When we were down visiting, interviewing, and checking it out in late November, the day we left it was 86 degrees. It was 17 when we landed in Baltimore that evening. That about cinched it. The only down side is they tell me I *must* develop a pathological interest in the Florida-Georgia football game.

I resigned my job as Director of Treatment at the alcohol and drug rehab center where I work. The original plan was for me to do a variety of part time things... I have 4 teaching positions lined up, a few consulting/training jobs scheduled, a part time outpatient position, etc. The idea being that it looked like with a little more hustling I'd be able to put together a schedule that paid about 3/4 of what I was making for about 1/3 to 1/2 the time. That way, I'd be able to start getting some things ready for the move.

Then the Saturday before Christmas our babysitter who takes care of 5 month old Sam called and resigned with *NO* notice! Merry Christmas. And the day care mother where 3 year old Emily goes is 8 1/2 months pregnant and taking 6 weeks off starting in the middle of January. Good thing I'd quit my job, or I'd have to quit my job! Anyway, since my wife only has 3 more months to go in her residency, and the position on St Simons that she is accepting obviously requires her to graduate, she'll be working full time while I become a full time stay-at-home Daddy. I'll still be doing some of the teaching, consulting, etc., but curtailing it to things I can do in the evenings, on Saturdays, and maybe a day or two a week if we can find a reliable part-time babysitter.

I've started this routine the last week. Find myself watching too many hip-hop videos on "Video Jukebox" for my long term sanity, but damn, I think I'm gonna *have* to buy a CD by De La Soul. Question of the day, however, does *anyone* really like House Music? Gag. And Jim "Ultimate Music Snob" Burgess doesn't count, we all through the efforts of the DipDom Tattler he *really* only listens to Wayne Newton!

Many of you have gotten the ZR by now. So was it worth the wait? I'm happy with it, et me know what you think. If you haven't gotten it, \$1.50 gets you a complete listing with reviews of all the known zines in the hobby, hobby services, and other assorted info, spiffily laid out in Ventura Publisher by Ken

---

JANUARY, 1990

Hill and his friend. Hey, it cost a Ken a free meal in return for the DTP help, so thank him if you run across him somewhere. *Anyone know anyone with some bucks they don't know what to do with?* One of the things I lost when I left my job was free xeroxing, although it was becoming less and less reliable as that old machine went down with greater and greater frequency. I had the last *BTDT* done at a print shop after the machine at work was down for 8 consecutive days. Anyway, I almost fainted when called around and priced the ZR job! AND then again when I actually wrote the check. So I'm looking for a sugar daddy (or mommy for that matter). Any ideas?

And, speaking of which, as this rag goes print shop every time, we may have to make some adjustments here. 125 hard copies going out this time, I project 32 pages, plus *Tennessee Rails*. With income seriously curtailed by the above events, something has to give. My thoughts are to either a) raise the sub fee to \$1, and charge players and standbys .50/issue instead of giving it to them free, or b) distribute the games separately by flier to the players, and send the rest... the chat letters, articles, etc. out to everyone. That would cut the size of the "main zone" by about 50%. I solicit your thoughts and input. I will, of course, continue to give sub credit at the rate of approximately an issue/page for letters, articles, etc that I use. Please let me know your thoughts.

Are you as sick of "Best of the Decade" lists as I am? I asked my wife the other day what she thought was the most significant event of the decade. For once, we were in total agreement. It *has* to be Gorbachev's ascension to power in the Soviet Union, and the changes this has brought about in world politics and eastern Europe in particular. I'm not saying the man is a saint, he's probably just extremely pragmatic in the best tradition of a great Dip player, but can anyone but a paranoid right winger who believes its all an elaborate scheme to trick ns into cutting the Defense Budget, and then launch a pre-emptive attack on us, help but feel we're living in historic times? Both my wife and I, however, independently of us other added the caveat that if the HIV epidemic continues to spread like wildfire, with no cure or vaccine in sight, *IT* could end up being the story of the decade dwarfing the political process entirely.

I will indulge in the best of fad only in one small thing. I must say, that my "album of the year," chosen only on the basis of which album has given me the most consistent pleasure, has to be *Cosmic Thing* by the B52s. Not so close behind that were *Amnesia*, by Richard Thompson, and *Hunkpapa* by Throwing Muses (an album nobody else seems to like - even the Throwing Muses fans seem to see it as their "sell out" attempt at a commercial hit, but I love it, and think "Dizzy" is the song of the year). The irony is I almost didn't even buy *Cosmic Thing*. I remember Dick Martin sending me Email raving about it, and send off a rather testy reply stating I had no intention of buying it as I already owned two B52s albums, although they were "interesting, really how many B52s albums does one need?" But in a CD buying binge I grabbed it, and I love it!

Everyone these days complains about how nobody is writing in postal Dip. In the games I play in, the games I'm GMing, even games I have nothing to do with, I hear the same thing... nobody writes anymore and oh, how terrible it is. Well, yes and no. It certainly is a more fun game when all 7 players are fully involved and writing a lot. The more press, and written communication, the higher the level of involvement and generally enjoyment. On the other hand... what the hell. When other players don't write that gives those of us who usually do a major advantage. Of course it isn't always true, but generally, when you write a lot, and other players don't, you do well. Quite well. So think of this current epidemic of people not writing as a wonderful opportunity to maximize your own fishes in the games you are in. JUST don't catch the disease. Keep writing, keep sending your orders, keep cajoling other players to do your bidding, and if you're the only one doing so, you'll surely do well in the game.

## LETTERS

Allan Calhauer (La Grange Park, IL): "Thanks for the copies of *Been There, Done That*. A month or so ago I received a copy of some magazine which listed some of its past contributors, including the unforgettably named Tuli Kupferberg. The next day, in popped your magazine, referring to Kupferberg and mentioning the group he was in, the Fugs.

"all that reminded me of the mid-60s, when I lived near Greenwich Village and used to go there quite a lot. The Marshall Chess Club is there, and there was a go parlor run by a player named Matsuda for a while.

I used to walk past a place where the Fugs performed, but since I had no interest in that type of music, I never went in. The head of a local radio station once stated he wouldn't allow any music by the Fugs on the air, because he couldn't stand the name of the group. One writer for the *Voice*, however, acclaimed them as the best group of all.

"Lapel buttons were the rage for awhile in those days; I recall one that read: THE FUGS SUG.

"Anyway, best of luck with *BTDT*."

((Thanks. At that same period of time, the mid-60s, I went to elementary school on Bank Street, in the heart of the West Village. It was your basic "progressive, experimental" school, and all my teachers were confirmed beatniks and educational rebels, and the experience was probably the most central in me becoming who and what I am today (David Hood's nightmare!). I remember being exposed to a lot of music I probably wouldn't have otherwise heard at the time, in school. We learned and sang Woody Guthrie songs in music class. A classmate, in third grade, brought in Bob Dylan's first album to play "Talkin' New York," for us, etc. Funny about the radio station head. With the name of some contemporary bands (the Butthole Surfers come to mind), the Fugs seems a bit tame as a name. You know the story about the word "Fug?" It was, apparently, first coined by Norman Mailer, in his first novel, trying to portray the reality of the way soldiers in war time actually talked, yet still get the book

morning now, or it just ~~appeared~~ to reveal about those subjects. You have any idea what I just said about the CIA, and their puppet-masters the Illuminati, in action? Get with it pal!

I was going to run "Kill For Peace," 1988 version here, but I just re-read it, and honestly, it's pretty bad. Really. I mean its one thing sung to loud rock music at the Fillmore East while under the influence of psychedelics, and quite another read on the printed page.))

**Robert Greier (Salem, OH):** "Okay, dammit, I'm impressed! I thought you'd have another one of "those" zines, which discussed the life long mating habits of the condor or something along that line, but of course I didn't know you very well now did I? And through my reading of *BTDT*, I find that some old thirtysomething folks are discussing music? Well hell, I'm 28, I reckon I should have some input.

"Now was it you that said Pink Floyd died with the loss of Syd Barrett's presence? I beg your pardon! Were songs like "Dogs of War," "Wish You Were Here," and "have a Cigar" just little mistakes between hits off the bong? And with Gilmore saying there'll be another album do you really believe they won't pull it off again? I mean wasn't "Delicate Sound of Thunder" a good kick butt live album? There's even been talk of Waters coming back for one last tour! Oh Thomas, quit spinning your steel wheels long enough to listen.

"And Jethro Tull has another of the albums realized by old farts these days. =, and a fairly good album at that. I mean "Kissin' Willy" may be their best stuff to date, in my little ol' opinion. Their tour just passed through here, and yes I had to work and miss it.

"Anyway, keep it up Thomas, and don't forget to slam Kathy at every turn, with John for a husband, it's the only excitement she gets."

((In my oft referred to profligate youth, I loved the first two Jethro Tull albums. Then Ian Anderson's ego exploded, the band began a vehicle for his self-aware excesses, and they were, in a very real sense, the embodiment of everything that was wrong with 1970s Rock - spelt with a capitol "R" and as opposed to rock 'n roll. Bombastic, overdone, self-obsessed, concerned primarily with one's own importance, and well.. lacking passion of any kind whatsoever. Epitomized by the awful "Aqualung." I've heard the new album is quite good, and he has an old member of Fairport Convention playing in the band (a good thing), but I haven't heard it. As for Pink Floyd, I don't recall saying anything as extreme as they died with the loss of Barrett. Did I? William Whyte's British zine *NERTZ* has, it turns out, been

*independently having this same discussion for some time. William gets this zine, and I hereby invite him to share with us the general consensus among his readers on both sides on the issue.))*

**Al Tabox (Oakland, CA):** "I actually like the Laurie Anderson better as a whole than anything previous though it tough to compare anything to America or whatever the long one is called. I think I must like the Lieder elements which is weird since I never listen to Lieder. A German film buff buddy told me that the "History is an angel being blown backwards into the future" line is a fairly famous epigram. Wish I could remember who said it <g>. (Do I seem a little vague today.)"  
*((No more so than usual, oh Master of the Flashback. Sounds like Goethe to me, but what do I know? I haven't listen to Strange Angels enough to comment coherently. Maybe by next issue. These days, everything kind of melts into the Cars Bears theme song in my brain... ))*

**Charles Granger (Mayer AZ):** "... I'm thinking back to your #4, March 1989 issue of *BTDT*. In that issue you reviewed two albums of Jefferson Airplane. On your recommendation (and description) alone, I picked them both up on tape. It took awhile to find them, but Tower Records was the salvation. Do you have that store back east?

"Anyway, I'll be listening to *After Bathing at Baxter's* over and over, throughout this letter. Right now it's "Spare Chaynge." You're right. Cassidy is kick-ass. He's now one of my favorite bassists, up there with Jack Bruce, Geddy Lee ((*Huh? Who??*)), Chris Squire, John Entwistle, and Jaco Pastorius. The albums of JA I had before, that never exhibited Cassidy's versatility, where *Pillow*, *Volunteers*, *Worst of...*, and *Takes Off Personally*. I think you have the albums reversed in your review. *Bless it's Pointed Little Head* is OK (well, excellent), but *Baxter's* is an incredible conception. In listening to this album I'm "aided" by an unfortunate accident. On my stereo system I blew out the left side woofer. The stereo doesn't have a mono switch, so I still have to listen to the tape in stereo. Because the bass was recorded on the right side, it's doubly effective with both the bass and volume cranked. The bass comes in loud and clear, and you can pick up all the riffs and innuendoes you normally miss. How can you beat the bass on "rejoyce," "Spare Chaynge," or "Two Heads?" Listen to the songs with just the right speaker. What a difference! What a group; quite a difference from "White Rabbit" and "Somebody to Love."

"Both of these tapes are digitally remastered (May 1989). As such, they're probably higher quality tapes than the originals. They're also Dolbied.

"However I think there's a problem with their winding technique on *AB at B's*. The first tape I bought sounded stretched at both ends. "rejoyce" and "Two Heads" sound incredibly warped. The replacement tape sounds the same. Of course... it's possible the band did this on purpose? If you're willing, I'll send you the tape to listen to, and you could tell me whether the tape's screwed up (uh oh, here comes "rejoyce"... I'll have to break to play air bass!) and I need to get my money back; or I should have more faith in their technical expertise. Well, that's enough about the Airplane, thanks for opening my eyes! Oh, and I attended a Jethro Tull concert in Phoenix. PS - I think Rush and Cream may also qualify as lead bass rock groups."

*((That's why I'm a die hard convert to CDs. Even Digital Audio Tape will have the same problems with warping and stretching as regular tape, I'm afraid. And my old records are almost unplayable after so many playings. Besides the high quality of the sound (not there in digitally remastered CDs, or "AAD" ones), the selling point on CDs is their fundamental indestructibility. I had the same problem with a Richard Thompson album I bought on tape... it's become so stretched it's almost unplayable. Sure send it along, and I'll give a listen. "Two Heads" does do some funny things, some sound effects as it were, but not any that sound to me like warped tape. And I can't think of anything on "rejoyce" that would sound that way... let me check... just listened again, no warping there. But send it along if you like. Actually, for a long time I considered *Baxter's* to be the best Airplane album, so we have no argument there. It's only relatively recently that *Bless...* has become my favorite. I bought the new, reunion Airplane album this fall, and the only reason I won't say I'm disappointed is that I didn't expect a lot from it. There are a few good songs, but overall, it ain't so hot. I recently picked up the retrospective, double CD set *2400 Fulton**

*Street, and listen to that a whole lot more often, despite the fact that I own most of the songs on it on records. Again, it's nice having a version that isn't all scratched to hell, and there are a few new versions, like "Volunteers" recorded live at Woodstock. It also includes the Levi's jeans radio commercials the band did in 1966. I remember hearing them on AM radio while I was in 8th grade. We'd all heard about the Airplane, and how good they were, but Surrealistic Pillow hadn't been released yet, and nobody was playing Takes Off. Suddenly there were these ads. Weird. But if that's all you could hear of the Airplane, you settled for it. I don't know Rush at all, but although Jack Bruce's bass was heavily emphasized in the mixing of Cream's albums, how anyone can even think of calling Cream a lead bass group during the heyday of Mr. Guitar Hero himself is beyond me. Clapton was front and center all the way. And rightly so. And, I am of the opinion that after some great work in the Yardbirds, Mayall's Blues Breakers (the absolute zenith of his career, a truly GREAT album, with, ironically, the rhythm section of Fleetwood and McVie that split and founded those ultimate soft rock dinosaurs, Fleetwood Mac, who were actually a very hard, intense, blues-rock band with Peter Green on lead guitar for a couple of albums before mutating into the well..., blech that they became), and Cream, his career has been all down hill since. Now I better duck before the next wave of indignant letters appear!))*

**Alan Stewart (Toronto, ONT):** "Look out, look out, this'll happen to you some day!"  
((Written on the back on the official Praxis fold announcement which came with my sub refund.))

**Kathy Caruso (Norristown, PA):** "Maybe you better read KK Praxis and clean fold is a crock. People like myself, McHugh, Perlmutter, Acheson, etc. were told NO REFUND unless we're still around when he returns to the hobby."

((So I've heard from a few people since I reported a "clean fold" in the last BTDT. Seems like people's money was selectively refunded. Not much class in that. I wonder why I was so blessed? The two most unusual stories I have heard, are Robert Greier getting a refund, when he never subbed in the first place, and Chris Carrier, who had a subzine in Praxis, is apparently still refundless as well. Neill Goltz tells me that not only has he not gotten a refund, but that nothing has been done, as far as he knows, about rehousing the game he is in. Alas, Praxis, in the first six months or so I was in the wider PBM hobby, was by far and away my favorite zine. There is nothing like it for me in the hobby today; no single zine that I actively look forward to and so clearly enjoy above anything else. There is no dominant zine in that sense today. I guess deep down I was pulling for a clean fold. Anyway, more on folds, refunds, and ethics...))

**Francois Cuenier (Scarborough, Ont):** "I've just noticed your sub is down to .96, and since I might not have included a note with #94, I'll just drop this short note instead. Normally I would have enclosed a copy of #95 as well, but I see from your courtesy copy of BTDT that likes to keep everything straight down to the last penny. So OK: send more money if you want to see Passchendaele again; you owe me me; pay up, bum. Otherwise I'll go after you for theft and mail fraud!

"Actually, it wouldn't be quite as simple as that: the law provides little protection to Dipsters in the absence of signed sales contracts (even mail order coupons can be treated as such, are in fact the bare legal minimum to constitute a contractual relationship, but even that isn't found in the hobby), probability of the claim ("but your honor, that \$5 was a Christmas gift!"), triviality of the amounts involved (in Canada, the Judge would be just as likely to turn around and drop a charge of malevolent prosecution in the face of the plaintiff), and distances involved. The officers of the court and postal systems would laugh off any complaint as simply not being worth their time.

"And I'd be very wary to consider legal action in the first place, because all publishers break the law from the start. I want to see your incorporation papers, publishing license, journalistic accreditations, and sales tax number (along with complete record of disbursements of sales proceeds to the IRS), because if you're missing any of those you are operating outside the law. Go to jail. Do not pass go. Do not collect \$100.

((Absolute baloney. Sounds impressive, but journalism is not a licensed profession, at least not in the US. Anybody can put out a newspaper or magazine. Journalistic accreditation looks good if you're trying to impress people, but has no legal status. You certainly don't need to be incorporated to do anything... you can be a partnership or sole proprietorship. As it happens, I do have a sole proprietorship registered with the IRS. Obviously, for other business than publishing a zine though. Sales tax is strictly a function of state, not federal government, and newspapers and magazine sales are NOT taxable here. So the reality is, not a single ONE of the things you mention are necessary to operate legally. No, I do not claim the sub and game fees for my zine as income on my taxes; perhaps I should, as I could certainly use the deduction for the loss I realize through it. Unfortunately, I'm simply too lazy. Much the same way I neglect to record mileage for business purposes. Francois, I certainly never meant to imply I would ever actually peruse legal action for the trivial amount involved in a diptine folding; simply that morally and ethically its fraud, and the excuse you use, that keeping sub fees because you gave more value than you charged for all along, doesn't cut it, is, basically a lame, fatuous, self-indulgent and intellectually lazy excuse. That's YOUR problem as a businessman, not your subbers'. And one you appear to have sought a solution to through the hefty price hike for Passchendale.))

"You remind me a lot of the friend who is treated repeatedly to drinks through the year but paid the last - snail - bill. You decide to get together again, but when it comes to paying off he insists that it's your turn, that you owe him. The analogy to publishers is apt enough; after years of pouring hundreds of dollars into the hobby, they are given a hassle over \$2.45 when they decide to call it quits.

((Whew! Francois, maybe you have such an inflated opinion of your zine that you think buying it is analogous to being "treated" to something, but I don't. I buy it, I pay for it. Again, if you undercharge, as I believe I do, that is your problem entirely, as it is mine. If you por hundreds down the hobby, it is either because you really enjoy publishing, as I do, even at that cost, or that you're dopey. Neither of which reasons, again, are your subbers fault, and so definitely not their responsibility.))

"Your last argument is that a publisher is making a commitment to his subscribers when he accepts that \$3. Sorry, but that's all in your head. I've sent money to publishers for over a decade now, and never have I received a note indicating acceptance of any obligation. I personally don't have any commitments to anyone, only a set of arrangements that happen to be convenient at the moment, to be dropped just as conveniently when they are no longer so. ((How very sad. What a truly empty and fundamentally shallow life you must live. A veritable man of the 80's, eh?)) To treat a hobby any other way would be insane. - everything in my life is more important - and akin to the roommate who puts up a fight when you decide to switch the TV channel.

"Since the mid 1970s people have often come up to me from time to time ((sic)) to say that because was in the hobby, or because I was a publisher, then I had to do this, or do that. It's always been highly annoying to me, because I joined this hobby with little other in mind than to publish and play games. I accept no "commitments" to submit orders on time, support hobby projects, attend local conventions, publish regularly, offer lots of game openings, keep my sub rates cheap of effect refunds in a timely manner. This is not my job; this is my hobby. I'll do something only if I bloody well feel like it, and not because Tom Nash or anyone happens to think that is what should be done. I don't read any commitment on my part, just a lot of unilateral expectations on the part of Tom Nash. Well, I don't think I have to address any of those, and that to my way of thinking addresses the only point of relevance. The only point that my original editorial "missed" was the one in Tom Nash's head."

Paul Milewski (Cincinnati, OH): "Loosely speaking, fraud is any kind of trickery used by one person to cheat another. Strictly speaking, for a pubber's failure to perform his contractual duties to the subber to constitute fraud, he would have to have intentionally misrepresented either his ability to perform of his intent to perform. If the misrepresentation is not intentional but innocent, there is no fraud. Intent is a difficult thing to prove. It would be prudent to limit yourself to stating that they cashed your check but you received nothing.

"The pubber's failure to perform his contractual duties would constitute breach of contract, creating a right of action for damages for such breach, or for restitution if the subber received nothing at all. In other words, he ought to get part or all of his money back, depending on how many, if any, issues he received. It used to be popular for a pubber to keep an account ("sub balance") for each subber and charge for the cost of the issue. The sub balance was understood to be the subber's money. If, as is currently the fashion, the arrangement is for the subber to pay in advance for a number of issues, he is entitled to receive the issues he has been promised. ((Amen))

"All pubbers should have a clearly worded statement on refunds, even if it is Konrad Buameister's promise to cheerfully return the portion of your money he has not spent.

*((Bingo. Though I disagree with it, I can't kick too much about mark lew's policy, of confiscating all unused sub fees if and when he folds, because he puts it on the front page of every issue of benzene and in his description for the ZR, with a statement that people troubled by the policy should sub elsewhere. At least you know the rules clearly before you pay.))*

"As for Francois Cuerrier's point that in most cases the value to you of the issues received to date exceeds the amount you originally paid, the pubber is a hobbyist, too, and asks for money to defray part of his costs. His motivation is not monetary gain. The essence of an economic transaction is that each party considers himself to be better off after the exchange than before, or neither party would enter into it to begin with. A rational pubber expects to receive enough enjoyment to more than compensate for the monetary cost of being a pubber. To attempt to justify the actions of a defaulting pubber by arguing that what the subber paid does not cover the costs of operations is to ignore the nonmonetary rewards to the pubber (else why be a pubber?) and the proposition that a promise should be kept."

*((Hear, hear! That's exactly what I have tried to express through this discussion. Well put. There's been another apparent fold which epitomizes what I tried to say a couple of issues back. Michael Hopcroft, soon after the KGO ZD incident this summer, put out one last issue of his zine, NUTMGS, then disappeared. The zine hasn't been seen, he NMRd out of virtually all his games, and from what I have heard, has not been responding to inquiries about what is going on. The games are in process of being rehoused, and NUTMGS is presumed folded, quite messily. I don't WANT a refund for my sub to NUTMGS. Lord knows, Micheal needs the quite small amount money more than I do. I would return it to him if I did get it. But, the bottom line is that it should be my decision, not his presumption, that this be the ultimate outcome of our financial relationship. Common courtesy, human contact, i.e. a brief post card informing me that he's folding, that he is having a rough time financially, that he will attempt to honor refunds that are insisted upon as possible, would go a LONG way to maintaining a level of responsibility. However, that was not forthcoming. He chose the easy way out, avoiding the taking of any personal responsibility. Perhaps, like Francois, he doesn't believe in commitment, hence personal responsibility, only "convenient arrangements." Surely, then letting people know he is folding would prove far too inconvenient, so why bother? Screw 'em. It's inconvenient. I don't have any commitments anyway.))*

**Ed Wrobel (Springfield, VA):** "Taking notes on Civilization is a nasty job, but someone has to do it, especially when it's necessary to document and expose early departures (shame on you... you deprived Dicko of yet another satisfying victory). Unlike yourself, I am a responsible journalist who deals in facts, not pathetic name dropping in an attempt to ingratiate myself with the real movers and shakers of in gaming. You have already confused Jim Shapiro and probably caused incalculable damage to his unborn children.

"And, as a responsible journalist, I heartily demand, in advance, my God-given right of reply to your scurrilous lies, gross distortions, and undulating untruths about the sensitivity of male shoats in WARTHOG, to our sows' struggle for equal status. Fact: we published a separate directory for the Sows Auxiliary, equal in status to the male directory, with all rights appertaining thereto. Fact: the rite of marriage among shoats has skyrocketed. Our most recent addition, Ms. Hurwitz, has nearly been afforded co-editorial status on our flagship newsletter. Fact: three females attended an 1830 game at our



Northern Virginia nerve center (my home). None performed any tasks that could be construed as menial or demeaning. Fact: Sean Vessey eschewed gaming throughout the holiday season to devote himself to the care of the three females for whom he provides warm, dry, sleeping quarters and adequate nutrition. "Rampant Sexism?" Not if you know the facts, Mr. Nash!"

((Dear Ed Wrobel, oh come on now. What a total claptrap of fatuous doggerel. You know as well as I that there are two and only two basic "WARTHOG types." Type A is a non-too-successful computer professional with all the social skills of a pile of dirty plaid shirts. He picks his nose, subsists on Classic Coke and MacDonalds, has a stupid laugh, thinks Billy Joel is a really cool dude, smells bad, and hasn't had a date in five years. Ah but that date was a good one... she didn't mind eating at MacDonalds, didn't insist on Diet Coke, and actually let him teach her Advanced Squad Leader. What made it really special was he was able to win handily. Ghod, what a great date! Can't understand why she never returned his calls after that; his roommate says it might have to do with how much he picks his nose... Type B is married, kids and a job, a house, a lawn to tend to. Much better social skills. Lovely wife, in fact, darling kids, nice house. The lawn is a little worse for the wear. And where, on any given weekend from Saturday morning through the wee hours of Sunday night do we find our hero? With said lovely wife, darling kids, in said nice house? No, surrounded for hour after hour by Type As, picking their noses, smelling bad, and moaning the lack of dates in their lives, harassing said Type As not to go home, but stay for just one more game of 1830... PLEASE! After all, it'll only take another 5-6 hours. The wife is already pissed, the kids already neglected, the lawn, well how much can ChemLawn cost anyway? Look, if you don't believe me, I quote, verbatim, from "1830esse" your official house organ, the Chairman, the Eggman, you yourself, Ed Wrobel: "Face it: you don't have time to play games... you probably have a demanding wife and/or girlfriend who wants you to go dancing, out to dinner, and/or the movies. That is, if you don't have children who will grow up to hate you, and/or become criminals who smoke crack and prey on little old ladies and schoolgirls. That is, if you're lucky enough to be acceptable enough to your fellow human beings to have a job and/or a family. Cheesh, you disgust me." Fact: That is you, Ed Wrobel. In your own words! What does this prove? That you rely altogether too heavily on the clumsy and inharmonious "and/or" monstrosity in your overwritten prose! As well as my point i.e. the so-called sexually liberated WARTHOGS!))

**Mark Nelson (Bath, England):** "I have never played a pro PBM game and I doubt I'll ever do so. It's not purely a question of money as every so often some new game will send out free turns to zine editors in return for a review, but more a reflection on the kind of games I like. I really don't enjoy games with a complex rules and grand tactics. I prefer simple games where all the skill is in negotiating rather than pure tactical aptitude. So I'll stick to games like dippy and puff puffs (qv RR). I also don't like long games, here I'm talking about FtF. I really prefer to play a short game lasting no more than 4 hours. So I don't really enjoy 1829 which they tell me is a great Railways game. Nearly said Railroad, god I'm turning into an American!

"There are essentially no no-nos in dip which, is one of the reasons why the game is so great. Given the right players almost anything will work. I say almost anything because if you're the kind of guy who will seriously consider opening to Livonia with the fleet, then hey, let's get into a game together! When I read the Berch article you refer to (in the original printing), it struck me as obviously being intended as humorous and not to be taken seriously.

"I can't say that the Gamer's Guide struck me as being any good. Certainly it is worth reading for any serious dip-freak but it is very one-sided in its approach to certain parts of the game and poorly designed. For instance, what is the point of using a 1966 (I think) dip game to show people how to play dip? I can recall one place where Rod has to say something like "the rules are different now, so this won't occur in your game..." *Supernova* or *MoD* are probably better reads for novices, who should read all three of them I guess in any case! No, Avalon-Hill could have done better with their booklet.

"Richard Walkerdine isn't really burning out, more kind of going into temporary retirement. Running the zine down to a fold, and taking out subs to zines, he'll stick around like he did when he did

when he folded for the first time in 1977 and took a 4/5 year vacation. I wish we had more pubbers like him, one of the best GMs in the world, a top writer, a great sense of humor and a very reliable pubber. What more could a dip player ask for?

"Interesting to see that you assert it is illegal not to return sub money when folding. On what is this statement based?

"Hey, hey, hey there are at least two decent American zines which have never printed a letter written by myself. Possibly three. Unfortunately the active involvement of Brits in the American scene is limited to Wol, Pete, and myself. A few more editors have a couple of trades, but involvement is very, very low. I think only 5 Brits voted in this year's Runestone Poll. The introduction of the Canadian Zine Pack deal should bring in some non-pubs to the Canadian hobby."

((For those who don't know, the Canadian zine pack deal is a deal that allows overseas subscribers to get, I believe, *Northern Flame*, *Hagalil Hamaarvi*, *Passchendaele*, *Clandestine Activities*, and perhaps another one or two Ontario based zines for a reduced group rate. I think it's a great idea. I have been toying with the idea of a "Brat Pack Zine Deal" with a similar offer - *BTDT*, *Metadipomat*, *Entropy*, *Moire*, and *Dipadeedodahl*, at a reduced group rate for overseas subbers. What do y'all think, Jeff, Jason, Tim and Phil? Of course I have no idea if the Canadian version is at all successful, and would appreciate hearing from Cal or Randy on that. I agree Mark, that the interest in the North American hobby among Brits seems very low, especially after Simon's Billeness' fold and Cathy "Ms. Unhip and proud" Ozog's impending one. The corresponding interest in the Brits among us here, while not at a fever pitch, is comparatively a good deal higher, or so it seems. You all (not you personally) love to use our feuding as the great excuse for this disinterest, but I don't buy that. I read a lot of British zines, and right now, the feuding, if anything, is HIGHER over there than here. This of course strikes at the self-righteousness of the British hobby, but whatever you want to call what your brother and Iain are doing over variants is fine with me, but it sure looks, sounds, and quacks like a feud to me.

I have actually just started playing my first commercial PBM game, *Warp Force Empires*, by electronic mail, of course. I have the same biases as you about liking simple games that rely on diplomacy and negotiating, and the de-emphasis on tactics. Hence, *Dip*. Hence, my general distaste for gunboat, at this risk of beating a dead horse. Basically, I'm not good at all at complex tactics, and complex order writing systems, but I have a knack for talking myself out of trouble. However, *WFE* seems like it'll be a pleasant diversion and a change of pace from my usual gaming routine.

Shorter FtF games are not a preference but a necessity for me. I have kids. I can't usually start a game until after their bedtime, i.e. about 9:30 PM. By 2 AM, I can't think straight. Hence, in 3 attempts, I have yet to manage an 1830 game to the rulebook conclusion, though I love the game. We had friends, a couple, over last night, and choose the rather mindless but not altogether unpleasant *Rail Baron* over 1830 in an attempt to finish a game. We played until 2:30 AM and everyone conked out, the game unfinished.))

Vince Lutterbie (Marshall, MO): "You and McKee make me absolutely SICK! You two write letters back and forth to each other about stupid stuff like whether Gunboat is good and you say it isn't, while Jeff says it is. Then - you whore! - you actually accept people's money to run a game - what a pimp! A pimp and a whore! I've lost all respect for you I ever had, which isn't as lot. I hope my sentence structure stinks ((it does - ed.)) too, since you spend so much time correcting things - correct my sentences. BLECH! Now you and McKee are COUNTING how many times your names appear in each others' issues, what a couple of lard headed jerks. You say I'm a BRAT PACKER - LET ME OFF!

"So you say - what got into you Lutterbie? I'll tell you what! The last *Metadipomat* and *BTDT*. The old acid is rising into full flashback status and McKee is suffering from GNASHitis, a communicable disease contracted while playing PBEM, which as we all know, requires great skill in A-Hs computer game - or why else would McKee have won that particular contest at DipCon?

"Speaking of DipCon, why weren't you there to take your beating? You say you had a kid - HAH! Your wife had the kid & it looks like McKee! So there. There are hygienists and dental assistants having

my kids all the time ((Vince, did you forget Melodie plays in BTDT and is probably reading this???) - did you see me chicken out of DipCon? No way, Jose!

"Let's talk girls now. If Melinda Ann Holley (the CIA plot - conglomerate - FAKE) were to leave the hobby - who cares - the hobby sucks now anyway - we'd just cut our postage and go for the 6 way draws instead of 7 ways. We'd be out the best female player in the game, which still ranks #63 (Caruso doesn't count - John tells her what to write). Susan Welter - nice gal, draws pretty pictures, but can she STAB? HAHAAHAHa - you've gotta be able to live past '02 to stab. SHEESH.

"Jimmy Williams is the voice of the hobby today. - people get your rag just to see what he's written. No one cares about McKee/Nash anymore. Go ahead and take over the hobby - we'll just start a new one, just like everyone did when they got tired of Sachs/Linsey & Peery. Who ever worries about those guys anyway - a bit of rust on the old "golden agers?"

"So give me a break, Nash and McKee. Give up all your self proclaiming greatness and get back to what you do best - losing Diplomacy games - then at least we can all talk at the same level. Nobody except Cameron and Botimer lose games better than I do. And McKee, British style SUCKS - so do Brits and commies and South Americans. Canadians? What jokes.

"I want to apply for a feud number with John Crosby who is definitely NOT HOT!"

((Vince, Vince, Vince.... going through withdrawal from nitrous, are we? Remind me if I have emergency dental problems at DipCon, NOT to let YOU near my mouth! With that attitude I'd rather deal with anything my teeth can dish out! Anyway, you got this Brat Pack thing all wrong. You can't just up and quit, just because you feel like it, or because you have deep seated feelings of inferiority in regards to me and McKee. You see, membership to the Brat Pack is absolutely free. It's getting out that costs ya. There's a mere \$1,000 debriefing, restocking fee. Payable in full, or one easy installment. We accept Mastercard, Visa, Amex, cashier's check, money order, or cash. Sorry, your check won't make the grade here. McKee says he'll settle for a hygienist, but as the liberated male I am, I won't accept that. Now, as I have said here many times before, this is real important, so don't screw it up, make money orders or cashier's checks out to ME, not McKee. He's not real good at math, you know, and not real organized, either, so the money just confuses him needlessly. Oh, and, er... um... don't mention the amount of the debriefing, restocking fee to him either. It's, ah... a long story. OK?

Anyway, now that you've done your best Bruce Geryk imitation, and pissed off the women, the Canucks, the Caruso, the Golden Agers, Brux, Sachs, the Brits, Crosby, Cameron, and whoever else you managed to gratuitously insult, we don't even WANT ya butt in the Brat Pack! So get out, now! Just don't forget to forward that money, and remember, to me, NOT McKee!!!)

David Hood (Chapel Hill NC): "I have yet to hear from any of the Brits about the proposed Railway Rivals tournament for World DipCon. I think I need for you to try to talk this possibility up with the RR subhobby, which has seen several gamestarts recently. See if anyone is interested in participating. If there is not I'll just table the idea."

((Ghosh, what a typical Randian fascist approach! Seriously David, the RR subhobby is in virtual renaissance currently, with numerous recent gamestarts and/or openings in NNY, Gonzo Rails, TR, BTDT, Pirate, CIA, Protozoon, and of course, that non-zine, Two Costaguanas in F Flat, as well as the world's first weekly deadline electronic RR game I am GMing in Ken Hill's new electronic zine Electric Trains. Believe me, I think there will be sufficient interest in a RR tournament to justify it. I still think the Brits are the logical ones to run it, as they have lots of experience running it as a FtF tournament event. However, there are quite a few experienced RR GMs and players reading this who may have ideas or interest in the tournament and how to score it. This is an open call to Pete Sullivan, Iain Bowen, Mark Nelson, and Wallace Nicoll, who are all reading this and planning on coming, as well as Conrad, Paul, Jim, Doug, Ken and John Crain, who wants to run this thing, and how should we score it. David, for now, put me down as being the interim RR Tournament Director, and as soon as someone with more sense and experience volunteers to replace me, I'll let you know who that is. I also still think

an 1830 tournament is de rigor for WDC, and call on all right minded readers of this zine who play that game and are coming to WDC to think seriously about how to run that as a tournament event.))

**Tim Moore (Costa Mesa, CA):** "Betcha Moire finishes higher in the Runestone Poll this year than BTDT. You may have taken the junior poll but with the Big Boys I'll be king. Audi still says she can hear me call out at night "I will crush Nash, but I don't believe her anymore. My analyst says I'm cured of Nashophobia. Only time will tell..."

((OK, big mouth, you're on. What's the wager. Dinner at DipCon? A free game start? Loser has to run the winner's photo as a full page cover on their zine? You name it, you got it! And I still say I'll join John Madden in the train-only contingent once you are made an Air Traffic Controller.))

**Harold Zarr (Iowa Falls, IA):** "I have noted with some interest your discussion of railroad games. IN particular some statements made about the new Iowa map for this game ((*Railway Rivals new hill-less Iowa map - ed.*)). While I admit that I have never played this game, I must take exception to whoever it was that designed this mapboard.

"For those of you who have never had the opportunity to visit the fair and lovely state in which I reside, I would suggest to the designer of the game that he go down to his local library and get a copy of a topographical map. If he studies it closely, he (or she) will find that in northeast and northwest Iowa there are hills and cliffs of sufficient height to deny him passage with any ease. In addition, southeastern Iowa has a considerable amount of marshlands which will deny him an easily constructed roadbed for his trains.

"Central and southwestern Iowa will provide him with relatively easy access for railroad construction, provided you bring along plenty of bridging equipment to cross the rivers that you will find nearly every twenty miles or so. Iowa is far from the flat land that all too many people from out east think that it has. If you want to find really flat land, you need to travel about 50 miles into Nebraska, or most anywhere in Ohio. But you will find little of it in Iowa. In fact, the only abundant thing you will find is millionaires. Iowa has more per capita than any other state. But that's another story.

"Speaking of other stories, why don't you give credit where it is due. If you want to listen to some really fine rock and roll, just give a listen to virtually any of the records produced by Alice Cooper between 1973 and 1978. In my opinion, three of the best he ever made are *Welcome To My Nightmare*, *Alice Cooper Goes to Hell*, and *From the Inside* (my personal favorite). While never fully appreciated by the record buying public, Alice has been on the edge of social concerns in a way that you have to listen closely to appreciate.

"The all time greatest story teller is Harry Chapin..."

((At the great risk of starting an all out feud, for nothing arouses heated passions more than defending our favorite musicians, even dip games, I have cut the rest of Harold's paragraph extolling the virtues of the late Mr. Chapin. I do so because, gee, Harold, this is a family zine and he have standards of decency here. I mean, for my money, Harry Chapin is worse than Billy Joel!!! I mean talk about mawkish, adolescent self-aware lyrics, and bland, elevator-style music. Yech! ABout Alice Cooper, I must again mostly profess ignorance. I certainly remember him, but the only song I was really familiar with, and liked, was "I'm 18." Together with Iggy Pop's "Now I Wanna Be Your Dog," Richard Hell and the Voidoids' "I'm a Member of the Blank Generation," and the Ramones' "I Wanna Be Sedated," it formed a four song tetralogy that seems to define the 70s about as good as anything. I remember that after disappearing, basically, as his alcoholism consumed him, Cooper resurfaced and did an autobiographical album and tour that won a lot of critical praise detailing his addiction and recovery. Was that *Welcome to My Nightmare*? I should someday put together the "All-Recovering Band." It would have to include Grace Slick, Jerry Garcia, Warren Zevon, Cooper, the entire membership of Aerosmith, and Pete Townsend. Anybody know of anyone else?

The Iowa Railway Rivals map, alas, is done. We'll have to see it to decide whether or not the true topography was used. Not having any graphic art ability, I've never thought about actually drawing any

RR maps myself, but I recently daydreamed one afternoon in the car about what a Maryland map, with the weird shape of the state, would look like, and one for my new home to be, the southern Georgia-Northern Florida region. In thinking about that one, the idea of using swamps hexes came to me. I don't know if they ever have been used, but in some maps it seems as if they should, probably at the same building penalty as mountains and forests. Ken Hill has just worked with David Watts on developing an Ohio map. It may well be ready now, and if Ken wants to playtest it here, it is, of course, a most welcome idea!))

**Ed Wrobel (Springfield, VA):** "Speaking of Blue Cheer (we were speaking of Blue Cheer, weren't we?), their cover of "Summertime Blues" appeared in the movie *Troll* (Which I caught on the tube last night). The average, middle-class, fortyish father cranked B.C. up on the turntable to do his "aerobics" complete with grimaces, air guitar, and spasmodic flops. I thought he had been possessed by the *Troll* but it turned out to be his normal routine. I once owned a Blue Cheer album. Seemed to be mostly untuned fuzz and feedback, although their "Summertime Blues" was the best.

"Well... got to earn some money..."

((I owned a Blue Cheer album once too... didn't realize I now longer had it until they surfaced in the lettercol here a few issues back and I went to fish it out and play it, and horrors, it was gone! It was their first one, the one with the dopey poem by Owley on the cover, and yep, "Summertime Blues." And yes, they were mostly loud fuzz and feedback. With the emphasis on LOUD. I've never even heard of the movie *Troll*, but if it had Blue Cheer's version of "Summertime..." well it must have been at least a half notch better than it otherwise sounds!))

**Eric Brosius (Milford, MA):** "Where's the rest of my letter? Publish everything my eye! Can't you afford a stapler? And with the arrangement of pages I got, *Tennessee Rails* is now a zine with a very large subzine! Better warn him he's about to run out of states that begin with the letter "T."

((Sure I can afford a stapler, I just haven't gotten around to buying a center stapler. Anyway, talk about picky... OK then, here's the rest of that old letter:))

"More rock music talk!?! How about an article from Conrad on "How to Learn to Like Rock Music When Deep Down You Abhor the Stuff?" I hear he's an expert. Maybe I can try his method.

Actually I've always found jazz just as hard to listen to - sounded like a bunch of guys tuning their instruments with earphones on. But recently I've been listening to "The Jazz Decades" on WGBH hosted Sunday nights by Ray Smith. He plays stuff I really enjoy, so I can begin to see how I might become a jazz fan. I can hear the melodies in stuff he plays. Unfortunately, when I listen to "regular" jazz stations, it's as unattractive as ever. I guess it's a slow process."

((Jazz is such a loose term, covering so many different musical styles, it's hard to use it as an inclusive kind of thing in "I like jazz," or "I don't like jazz." I mean, how similar are the more extreme intellectual experimentation of Don Cherry or Anthony Braxton to early dixieland; and yet they are both referred to as "Jazz." Anyway, I've just decided the true test of a person's musical taste has NOTHING to do with what they say they like... but rather what are the stations their car radio buttons are set to? My radio has 8 buttons on the FM band... true confession time here... one "progressive rock" station (which is rapidly becoming less so on almost a daily basis), one college station that mostly plays hard core punk and the most experimental of progressive stuff, one mainstream AOR, one "classic rock" (we used to call 'em oldies stations), two jazz, one classical, and one bluegrass. And believe me, I flip between them liberally!))

**David Orne (Lakeland FL):** "This has been a bitch of a day at work, so I thought I'd knock off a bit early and respond to BTDT #9.

"The format and printing technique works fine. The only irritant in the process is that I have to wait until the next day at work to put staples on the center fold, which makes it much easier to read. I can imagine how time consuming it would be to do every copy that way, so I won't ask you to do it for

me. Other than that, it's O-Tay. Some of your comments in the lettercol were NOT in italics, but I found them anyway.

"Comments to letters:

"1) Mickey Preston: you lucky dog! Lexington is one of my favorite cities (as are Montreal, Minneapolis, and Toronto). Louisville will seem like a pig sty in comparison, which, of course, it is. Take my advice, go immediately to Joe Bologna's near the U.K. campus. The bread sticks are great, but get a pizza too while you're there.

"2) Tim Moore's letter, your comments: *Charleston is/was indeed a lovely city, especially Rainbow Row*. I hope those old houses stood up. They likely did better than newer houses.

"3) Peter Sullivan: unless there's a con in Orlando or Tampa, I doubt seriously that I'll be in attendance at one. I live so far away from family that I spend all my vacation days seeing them during Christmas season. Other than that, I "nickel and dime" my vacation days with the occasional racquetball tournament. Besides, I've only been at this for 15 months. I don't know how to play the choo choo games, and I don't even have the maps! Tom, could you remedy this situation? I'd especially like to receive the rules and map for Colonia.

"4) Your comments to my letter: OK, I can see I'm going to have to defend myself and my musical tastes. Pink Floyd - I like what they've done since Syd Barrett flipped. I think *Wish You Were Here* was wonderful! I'd like to see Roger and the boys make up and get back together, but won't hold my breath over it. *The Wall* was just a little too weird for me, though.

"Chicago - as I told you before, I turned to jazz/rock fusion as disco took over in the mid-70s. I stopped buying their albums after 10 (X?), the last one with Terry Kath. Mostly I like the brassy stuff with weird time signatures that never made it to the radio. Then again, I'm an old horn player from high school...

"Jimmy Buffet - I got turned on to him in college. Perfect music to get drunk to.

"Alan Parsons - you've never heard of the Alan Parsons Project? *I Robot? Turn of a Friendly Card?* Where have you been?

"Steely Dan - I have a feeling we could have a *real* good time with a good stereo system and a case of beer.

Last letter I told you I'd send you some music trivia. I haven't seen any trivia in *BTDT* yet, but here it is anyway:

#### Music Trivia Quiz Mark Lilleht Didn't Dare Answer:

1. What is the only song recorded by Steely Dan that was not sung by Donald Fagen. Name the song, album, and singer.
2. Who wrote "Cold Kentucky Rain?"
3. I'll name a song and the artist who made it famous, and you name the original artist:
  - a) "Woodstock" - Crosby, Stills, and Nash.
  - b) "All Along the Watchtower" - Jimi Hendrix
  - c) "Black Magic Woman" - Santana
4. What hit made its debut, live or recorded, on the Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour?

"If you like, I'll think of more next time.

"One last thing - I enjoyed "The Ropes." It reminded me of an exercise in basic training. I'm not exactly comfortable at heights either, and it made me feel good to accomplish it. It made me feel better to climb back down safely."

((Yeah go ahead and send some more trivia. Also send me the answers. I'll give the standard one free issue to whomever gets the most correct answers, but I need the answers to determine that! 3a, and 3b are easy, and I think I know 4, but the rest have me stumped. On the strength of responses from you and one

other reader about my ignorance in regards to Alan Parsons, I recently picked up I Robot. Not bad. Some of it is real familiar, I just never put it together with that name.

Mickey Preston (Lexington, KY): "Topic du Soir: The strangest thing is beginning to occur. People in the gaming community are starting to attach a reputation to me. A very undeserved reputation, I might add. In the past few months, people are treating me as if I were:

**"A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.**

"Ha! I don't know why. My record in competition is... mediocre at best. I have been beaten by most everyone I have come in contact with (quite soundly I might add). OK, so I have a draw to my credit, and by the time this reaches you I might have a win in Northern Ireland ((You do - congrats!)). But - now whenever I get into a game, I'm mentioned as class competition. As if I were a McKee, or Smith, or... or... Nash.

Even to the extent that I was/am playing in a totally non-dip game on C.I.S. incognito for awhile, getting my butt thrashed. Well, I erred in leaving a public message with my "signature" line on it. Within two days, I had 5 letters in my "mailbox" saying - gee, I didn't know it was you, I'm sorry, to, even, gosh, I know how good you are, can we make amends?

"Now, I know that you, Smith, and McKee suffer these problems constantly. But why do us Triple A players (Me, Hill, etc) suffer so? Perchance I could borrow Fred leapo for a game?

((Shhhhh... you're not supposed to mention that in public! Mickey, you can't play the role of bumbling incompetent anymore after winning that Northern Ireland game, convincingly to boot. You are finally and irrevocably exposed as a GOOD and VICIOUS dip player! We now know all those false starts and badly played positions (except one center standby positions which appear to be your forte) were all giant megadip ploys to get nobody to take you seriously, waiting for the precise moment to spring forth like a caged tiger and brutally sweep the board in the exact right game. So now you have to deal with your rep. Tough boogies. Welcome to the real world. And what game are you playing under an alias? I'm intrigued. I showed you mine, so I'm appalled and shocked you haven't shown me yours! Cough it up, or suffer the wrath of " T))

Jack McHugh (Upper Darcy, PA): "I hope you got the zines I sent you via Tommy Swider for the Zine Bank. I enjoyed your article on work, i.e. the "confidence course" - in last issue. Keep up the good work - just stop associating so much with this Dicko Martin guy. Look what happened to Peel and Wrobel - used to be real hobby forces. Now they're just pathetic shells of themselves since they started associating with this Martin guy. Be careful - Tom, you could be next."  
((Indubitably. I could. I shall. I will. And thank you so much for keeping it so brief!))

Bob Acheson (Edmonton, Alb): "Tom, enough of this picking on little Cathy Ozog. Signed, the Silent Majority, remember us?"  
((Bob, enough of this publishing every 4 months. And sticking me as Brad's designated standby. The vocal minority, we won't LET you forget us!))

Cathy Ozog (Munds Park, AZ): "Don't be silly - you and McKee are the new life of the hobby, yes, your plan has already worked - all of us hobby old timers are just dying to hand everything over to you.

"Seriously though its nice to see a new spark. Why some of us who have been around too long may even come back to life.

"Now listen, you have it all wrong, it's McKee who needs the money! All checks should be sent to McKee. I know babies are an extra expense, but don't you remember how it was to be young and broke? So they must send their money to McKee. McKee frightening? Don't be silly. You're talking about McKee of the puppydog eyes right? The one who looked down at me and pleaded "Cathy, I've just got to

better than a 3 center Russia. This is a tournament. You have to help me." Oh well, I could hardly help myself. Susan is so much better. It was 3 years since I last played a Dip game in person.

"Well, we shall see how long I shall be alive, but who knows, you might get another letter from me. You know one reason why I am folding is because of babies. I know I won't have time for running a zine, playing in games, working, and babies. So as I'm not getting younger, the zine must go." ((Gee, you and Linda Courtemanche both. Hey, I came to the same conclusion... you can't pub, play in games, have babies, and work. I just came up with a different solution. Take that job, and shove it, baby! But let me get this all straight now. Acheson of the Bob variety is your henchman, threatening people who expose your self-flagellating overindulgence in discussing your unhipness for the umpteenth time. You, in turn, are McKee's chief apologist and PR flak. How big a cut do you get on the Brat Pack money wrongfully sent to fill the already overflowing coffers of his beer-and-cigarette fund? McKee of the puppydog eyes? Barf!!!! Give me a break! Weird...))

Michael Lowrey (Raleigh, NC): "My taking over the *Carolina Command and Commentary* has been sped up. I'm editor/publisher effective immediately. Note that Dave Hood is still GMing his games. And Tom, just to annoy you, I'm giving Dave a page each issue to write on anything he wants to. So there.

"I find your including Adrian Belew in the new musicians of today rather interesting. After all, before going solo (and *Mr. Music Head* is his fourth solo album), he was the lead singer for King Crimson (from 1981-84), one of the original art rock bands dating back to 1969's excellent *In the Court of the Crimson King*.

I do agree with you in general about Classic Rock stations overplaying certain songs. My own proposal is let's listen to and appreciate the best music of both yesterday and today, be it the Beatles or Bad Brains.

"A quick comment about DipCon and scoring. You should have received a copy from David Hood of the proposed scoring system by now. Any comments? Or if you know anyone with any comments, tell them to send them to David or me."

((So, the coup was less than 100% successful, eh? He managed to keep control of the Ministry of Propaganda? How much more effective was Dick Martin's coup at *Politesse*, where the first thing to go WAS the Propaganda machinery. THough Wrobel still controls it in name only, anyone with any brains can see that as it degenerates into nothing but account after account of Martin victories at I830, who is really controlling the organ of misinformation. I never meant to imply that Adrian Belew was "new" in that sense. I own, and listen to frequently, the Crimson album *Three of a Perfect Pair*, which prominently features him, some of the Talking Heads projects be played on, and one of his earlier solo efforts. What I meant was I was including him in the general category of "New Music," i.e. contemporary, innovative, rock, as opposed to rehashed reunion bands and tours, doing the hits of 1973 for yet another time. As for DipCon scoring, I am not a scoring system maven, generally being the type who would prefer to play Dip games as a con that were outside the Tournament to avoid the ridiculous cross-gaming "playing the scoring system" stuff I've seen at both cons I have attended. As I said in McKee's zine, I have no problem with Tournament Dip, per say, but I think it is a variant, in that you are playing for best cumulative score, not each game as a separate entity, and it changes the nature of the game significantly enough that it should be treated as a variant. A legitimate variant certainly, one that some players (not me) excel at, but at the risk of sounding like an out-of-touch purist, it ain't Dip. My idea of an ideal scoring system... whoever wins the most games, wins. If there's a tie, whoever has the most wins and 2 ways. Then go to 3 ways, etc, looking for the tie-breaker. If there's only one win, that player wins. If there's two, and they each have a draw, whoever has the smallest draw. Etc. Down the line. Simple, yet I believe, elegant, and it finally gives the emphasis back where it belongs... on winning the game, not on ridiculous center counts. B=ut I am willing to lend this forum to a discussion on the DipCon scoring system if anyone wishes to present any other views.))





## TENNESSEE RAILS

Please make yourself at home. You are again reading the only subzzen devoted to the Tennessee variant map of David Watts' Railway Rivals. And, folks, please remember that less than one year from now, TR is scheduled to transform itself into Texas Rails for the Texas variant map now being developed.

This issue's a special feature: The Color Wars !!!

You Metzke: Er ... jade and green are the same color!!

However, ou problem: Green has been promoted to purple!

Goode to von Metzke: I used dark green for jade and light green for green.

Gardner to Goode: What's the fad with non-basic colors? — Jada? Carulean?

You must have one of those Crayola 64 color boxes.

Goode to Gardner: I used what was sent to me.

Perhaps TR has more colorful players than the average zzen.

Brown to Goode: As for whiskey being a color, I went with orange. Bourbon is the most common aldrol called whiskey, and it's brownish-orange. Since I'm brown, that leaves him orange. But I'd say you should color him Vodka!

Also, did you know Chartreuse is a liquor, too. The color comes from the drink — a yellow green.

Goode to ALL: While in a drugstore to buy ice for a trip to hex III, I noticed a 30-marker set reduced to 99¢. I bought it. The markers have been slowly deteriorating, but 26 of them are still usable.

A GM is only as good as his markers.

Game 1 728TN Building East is popular now.

Last issue, Black (Grave) had bank of: 36+6-0+0=42.

Red Go-Go Goins Rails (Go-Go) Mark Goins

3a: (C7)-Memphis; (K10)-Union City; (Clarksville)-L14.

3b: (L14)-L13-Gallatin. 3c: (Gallatin)-K19\*pay 5 to green\*.

Green Tennessee Ernie Chrysler-Plymouth (Ernie) John Galt

3a: (Covington)-D6; (J17)-Gallatin-K19.

3b: (K19)-K20. 3c: (D6)-Memphis; (K20)-K21-J22-J23\*pay 9 to blue\*.

Blue Trivial Entertainments Never Nibblo (TENN) Paul Gardner

3a: (H18)-J18\*pay 4 to black\*-J20.

3b: (J20)-K20. 3c: (K20)-K21-J22-J23; (G19)-Murfreesboro.

Yellow Bolivar, Union City & Gallatin Lines (BUG) Conrad von Metzke

3a: (D9)-B7-Memphis; (B9)-B7\*pay 1 to red\*-Covington.

3b: (D7)-E7\*pay 1 to green\*-G7. 3c: (G7)-J7-Union City.

Black Graveyard Train (Grave) Scott Cameron

3a: (I18)-J18; (F17)-F16; (C27)-C28-D28.

3b: (D28)-G28.

3c: (G28)-I28.

Go-Go 34 + 12 - 5 + 1 = 42.

Ernie 44 + 6 - 9 + 6 = 47.

TENN 47 + 0 - 4 + 9 = 52.

BUG 7 + 0 - 2 + 0 = 5.

Grave 42 + 0 - 0 + 4 = 46.

Turn 4 die rolls: 4-6-3

Game 1 press is on next page.

James K. Goode  
211 Maplewood  
Clarksville, TN 37040-3000

Tennessee Rails, page 2

Game 1 Press — BLACK to GM: Wa'una is goin' East!

GM to BLACK: Wud you'uns anjoy some Blue and Green company?

GARDNER to GOODE: Yes, you're right.

Guess I was taking the poor old coot (that's Conrad) for grnsnd.

CONRAD to PAUL: Whoopa! Did I got Melinda-ponched thers?

Game 2 729TN No payments? Really?

Blue Delawere and North Dakota Exrs Rootings (DANDER) Conrad von Metzke

3a: (E10)-Bolivar-C10-Memphis. 3b: (E10)-E7.

3c: (E7)-Covington; (G10)-Humboldt; (H10)-Milan; (H19)-H20.

Jnda Palaski Track Layers' Clsb (PTL Club) Scott Cameroo

3a: (B15)-C13-D12. 3b: (D12)-Jacksoo-Humboldt.

3c: (Humboldt)-Milan; (C22)-C23.

Graeo John Galt Line (JGL) John Galt

3a: (C27)-C28-F28-F30. 3b: (F30)-H30-H31. 3c: (H30)-Knoxville; (H31)-I31.

Red Engineers Successfully Sensing Environmental Effects (ESSEE) Paul Gardner

3a: (J27)-I28-Koorville-J29-J30. 3b: (J30)-J33. 3c: (J33)-Greeneville-J35.

DANDER 37 + 18 = 55.

PTL Club 36 + 12 = 48.

JGL 44 + 0 = 44.

ESSEE 31 + 12 = 43.

Turn 4 dia rolla: 4-6-3

Game 3 (oov 732TN — thanks, Conrad)

Cerulean Big Traio from Memphis (Big) Scott Cameroo

2a: (J17)-Callatio; (Nashville)-H18\*pays 3 to red\*-Columbis; (H18)-H19-Murbro.

2b: (L10)-Paris. 2c: (Paris)-J9-Milan-Humboldt-Jackson-E10.

Rad Volunteer Vagabond Vahiclos (VVV) Tom Nseh

2a: (F20)-Columbis; (E23)-E24; (Tollahoma)-D22.

2b: (E24)-D25; (D22)-Fayetteville. 2c: (D25)-Chattanooga-C27.

Brown Tennessee Natwork Trolley (TNT) Doug Brown

2a: (J23)-I24-I25. 2b: (Labanon)-H19\*pays 1 to cerulean\*; (I25)-I26.

2c: (I26)-H27; (H19)-G19\*pays 1 to rod\*-F19\*pays 2 to red\*-Columbia.

Big 26 + 30 - 3 + 1 = 54.

VVV 32 + 18 - 0 + 6 = 56.

TNT 26 + 0 - 4 + 0 = 22.

Turn 3 die rolla: 4-6-5

TNT to VVV: I hope you got your butt out west. BIG is gonna kill us on building revenue. I'll hit the H15 pass and you go tha D row to try to divida up rovaoue in races west.

>< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< >< ><

Question: Your house rulas did oot mention that racas will occur betweeo "sectors" and that no raca will occur within a sector. Is that ths case?

Answer: If we were playing oo tha 42-card map, TR would <sup>use the</sup> sector-method of asaigoing rncan. However, the 52-card map does not seem to be divided cleanly aough for sectoring to work well.

Racan will be chosan at random. Racas "within a suit" may result. For exampla, Milan - Memphis, or Georgis - Kentucky, will be considered acceptabla. However, the set must pass one tost: It must have at least one race between each suit. Thnt is, a spade-heart, spade-diamond, spade-club, heart-diamond, heart-club, diamond-club. One of each combination must ba included. If it is not, then tha crds will be re-drawn. Okay?

Tennessee Rails, page 3

Game 4 (now 733TN — thanks, Conrad)

Purple Georgia, Arkansas, Missouri Engineers (GAME) Paul Gardner  
2a: (L10)-Paris-J9-I9. 2b: (I9)-Milan-Humboldt-F9; (Humboldt)-Jackson.  
2c: (F9)-E9-Boliver; (E9)-Covington-B6.

Brown Tennessee Enterprise Network (TEN) Doug Brown  
2a: (H15)-H13. 2b: (H13)-H12-I11.  
2c: (I11)-I9\*pays 2 to purple\*-Milan-Humboldt-E9\*pays 3 to purple\*.

Whiskey A Fifth of Jack Daniels (Jack) Mark Goins  
2a: (E21)-Fayetteville-D22-Tallahome; (Fayetteville)-C21.  
2b: (C21)-C20-Pulaski; (C21)-B21-B20. 2c: (D22)-B24.

Green Volunteer Vagabond Vehicles (V<sup>1</sup>) Tom Nash  
2a: (K20)-E21-J22-J24. 2b: (J24)-I25; (Lebanon)-H20.  
2c: (I25)-I26-Coal Creek.

GAME 23 + 36 - 0 + 7 = 66.

TEN 39 + 0 + 7 + 0 = 32.

Jack 26 + 18 - 0 + 0 = 44.

V<sup>1</sup> 21 + 6 - 0 + 0 = 27.

Turn 3 die rolls: 4-6-5

GM to JACK: Your track looks like a drunk spider web.

ANON.: TEN gets the dope of the year award by not going to H4 in turn one. It should only cost him about 24,000 in revenue building into towns.

V<sup>1</sup> has a lock on the East!

GAME should hit the east towns first.

Jack will get south central.

V<sup>1</sup> and GAME are early leaders.

GARDNER to GOODE: Hey, I like having this route to myself!

PAUL to JAMES: Which is correct — the APSU box or Maplemere?

JAMES to PAUL: Both are correct. You may use whichever you prefer.

Game 5 (now 735TN — thanks, Conrad)

Blum Volunteer Vagabond Vehicles (Vagabond) Tom Nash  
2a: (K12)-K11-J11. 2b: (J11)-Paris-J9.  
2c: (J9)-Milan-Humboldt-Jacksa-Boliver.

Chartreuse Chattanooga Choo-Choo (Ch-Ch-Ch) Scott Cameron  
2a: (I20)-H21-H22. 2b: (H14)-H12. 2c: (H22)-H24.

Brown Costalota Rails (Costalote) Doug Brown  
2a: (Nashville)-J16; (Pulaski)-D16. 2b: (J16)-J15; (D16)-D15.  
2c: (D15)-D14; (C21)-C22.

Red Red Rails (Red) Mark Goins  
2a: (D22)-B24. 2b: (B24)-B26. 2c: (B26)-Chattanooga-C28-F28.

Vagabond 28 + 30 = 58.

Ch-Ch-Ch 28 + 0 = 28.

Costalote 28 + 0 = 28.

Red 32 + 6 = 38.

Turn 3 die rolls: 4-6-5

Comments on page 4 are derived from several sources. The primary source was volume one of History of Tennessee, 1960, by Folmsbee, Corlew, and Mitchell.

In theory, Tennessee is the area west of U.S. Mountains, north of  $35^{\circ}$  latitude, south of  $36^{\circ}30'$  latitude, and east of the Mississippi River. Even a casual glance at most maps proves the above to be not fully true.

The North Carolina border is mostly correct in that the surveying party which marked the line was generally able to determine the highest peaks of the Appalachians. However, rumor has it that the group had tired of its task before it completed the job, and decided to go straight to a town in Georgia toward the southern end of the journey. Thus, hex C30, which produces more copper than any other hex east of the Mississippi River, is in Tennessee rather than North Carolina.

The southern boundary suffered from inaccurate surveying and recurrent inter-ethnic controversies. Its most eastern section was surveyed in 1749 by a joint commission representing the two British colonies of Virginia and North Carolina. During the American Revolution, the now independent states of Virginia and North Carolina created another joint commission to continue the survey. Unable to find the marker left at the end of the 1749 survey, they made their own calculations to determine the  $36^{\circ}30'$  parallel and started west. After marking M35 to M30, the members of the commission disagreed and divided. Judge Richard Henderson, head of a land company, insisted that the line should be further south. With the other North Carolinians, he moved two miles due north and surveyed a line parallel to the line being surveyed by the Virginians, led by Dr. Thomas Walker, also head of a land company. The Henderson group quit near Cumberland Gap (hex M27), but the Walker line was continued (although not straight) to the Tennessee River (hex M9).

With better instruments, the entire border from hex M9 to M36 was found to be too far north. Even so, after Tennessee entered the Union as a state, she insisted that the even more erroneous Henderson survey should be accepted as the correct one. Virginia finally accepted a compromise line surveyed in 1802 between the Walker and Henderson lines. A couple of generations later, Virginia reopened the issue, carrying the case to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1892, the court ruled that long usage, legislative acceptance by Virginia, and implied acceptance by Congress had made the 1802 line final.

Kentucky was a bit more successful negotiating with Tennessee. Aware of the inaccuracy of the Walker line, Kentucky refused to recognize it as the boundary. In 1818, when the region west of the Tennessee was about to be opened to settlement after Jackson's Chickasaw Purchase, Kentucky made a survey of the boundary from L3 to L9. In 1820, an agreement was negotiated between the states which accepted the Kentucky survey as the boundary west of the Tennessee while keeping the Walker line east of the Tennessee.

The southern boundary, particularly the portion with Georgia, has also been disputed. The line was surveyed in 1818, and was slightly inaccurate. Although never officially rectified by Georgia, it was accepted by general use in Georgia state maps and other state documents. Thus, Georgia's efforts as late as the 1940s to have a more accurate line surveyed have been ineffectual.

Of equal interest, Georgia could once have claimed a much more northern border. According to the charter of 1732, Georgia's boundary was to follow the Savannah River in the source of the branch which rose farthest to the north, then extend due west to the "South Seas." Both branches which join to form the Savannah River begin north of  $35^{\circ}$ . However, in 1787, Georgia and South Carolina agreed that the 35th parallel would be Georgia's northern border, and South Carolina ceded its claim in the strip of land between  $35^{\circ}$  and the Georgia border under the assumption that the Savannah rose south of that line. Then, the strip of land ceded by South Carolina was in fact non-existent, and Georgia lost its chance to claim a strip of southern Tennessee about as wide as the one Tennessee acquired from Virginia as a result of inaccurate surveying.

**Cal White (Toronto, Ont):** "When you refer to my Feud Free Zone rules in *BTDT* please don't make the mistake everyone else has made - FFZ does not deter discussion, it only tries to keep debates from degenerating into name-calling. As you might have noticed, *Northern Flame* has had some lively discussion going, but no feuds (and I've censored almost nothing!). And this with letters from Bruce Linsey, John Caruso, and Mark Berch (to name a few) all having appeared from time to time!"  
 ((Cal, I didn't mean to imply that I thought FFZ was deterring discussion, merely that I thought, as you seem to be confirming, that this would be the perception of many people. I basically respect your efforts a lot, in attempting to have a lively discussion zone which will not allow nastiness or venom. And NF has certainly been lively as all get out recently. I believe we are striving for the exact same thing. Bottom line, I suppose, is my fundamental dislike for labels which keeps me from declaring myself a FFZ. Also, I think, once you set up rules and procedures for avoiding feuds, you run afoul of those very rules. Example, in complying with your own rule for cutting off discussion on an issue once what needs to be said is said, to avoid the circular going around and around the same old thing, which usually leads to an escalation of rhetoric, you ended the Peery vs. Sovereign Nation of Canada debate after your last word. Larry would have a legitimate beef had he sent something further of his own, that in following this FFZ guideline, you violated another, the right of reply. McKee ran into the same thing in *MetaDiplomat*. He ran a fairly incendiary letter by my dear Den Mon Susan Welher, with a few shots at Kathy Caruso, then did not run Kathy's supposedly hot reply, in the interest of cooling down the situation, letting the dead issue die, and keeping things from escalating out of control. I probably would have done the exact same thing. But he certainly lays himself open to the charge of letting Susan have her say, and not giving Kathy the right of reply. And this from another person who thought it would be easy to avoid the feud stuff in a mine! My point is that there are times when you you have no good choice... either way, you violate one of your FFZ guidelines, whether they be codified like yours, or just in your head, like Jeff, or me, and ultimately it is your decision as pubber which way to go. Either way may escalate the bad feelings, and whether you have decreed yourself a FFZ or not, you may have a heap o' bad feeling hanging around. Generally though, it sure feels like there is a lot less bad feeling and F-word stuff happening these last few months, and I for one, have found the hobby a more pleasant place to be.))

**George Mann (Plantation, FL):** "First off, a reply to McKee: At first I was going to write about my impression of McKee. But anyone who replies to the question "who is Jeff McKee" with "who is George Mann?" has to be on a superior plane of intelligence Sort of reminds me of a four year old who constantly replies "because."

"Oh yeah, and to Mark Nelson. Machiavelli is not a Diplomacy variant anymore than Chinese Checkers is a variant of Checkers. Anyone can give a game a number, so let the Miller Number Custodian do so. But, I believed it was worthwhile to promote Machiavelli on its own and thus started the NCM. Nelson's flat statement without reasoning makes me think he's really Sacks in disguise. Your explanation was right on the mark."

((What in the name of the BNC does Richard Nixon's dog and whether it is Chinese have to do with Miller Numbers for Machiavelli games, or am I missing something? And oh please, George! Be careful. The biggest feud, er... that's right they don't feud in Britain, um... heated discussion, yes that's it, heated discussion with a bit of personal vitriol thrown in for good measure, involves Mark and his brother and another *BTDT* trader, Iain Bowen, over what constitutes a Dip variant, and what doesn't, and who gets to decide. Please don't get them started here! Actually.... And this is I suppose a good place to BUG IAIN AGAIN, or Mark for that matter, or Pete or William or any of y'all, to please send me rules for Utterly Ludicrous Dip, and Somewhat Demiurgic while you're at it, so I can, 1) follow the discussion better, and 2) maybe run the damned things over here. OK? One would be better asking, George, not who is McKee, but rather what is McKee. Puppydog eyes, indeed.))

**Garret Schenck (Brooklyn, NY):** "Too busy hobnobbing with the rich and powerful (in dipdom at least) to answer my pathetic plea for one small answer to my ridiculous query - how many requests for the Zine

Bank do you get? I would eventually like to know, since I'd cut back slightly on my print run if you weren't able to unload the 3 or 4 I've been sending you. As it turns out, due to a late surge of new subbers (I don't THINK they were due to the Zine Bank) I probably will send you only some additional issues from last time - hey it's a better issue than the current one anyway. By the way, this issue of *BTDT* is MUCH better than the last, as far as the production goes, that is, now I just want to see the ZR. The suspense is just TOO MUCH for me. Look, enough babbling, it's late and you have a rather long ramble from me from last month which you refused to print because you would have had to lay a finger on the keyboard (look, if you can't stand the heat of the effing kitchen, alright!). SO I'll just sign off, but first the ritualistic "Nash you Turkey, vote for the 3 way draw in Formalhaut." Oh, one last thing, have you gotten n *Fiat Belhum*, or anything, from Williams lately? I don't know if he's flaming out, or if he's cut me off due to my NMR or what. I know, I know, another dumb question from one of the hobby's easily ignored little people. Look, Nash, this attitude of yours will come back to haunt you. I'll make sure of that. Brat Packer, indeed, you slime. Seriously (well, maybe), have a great holiday season, spoil your kids rotten, and see you next year."

((Garret, you have the ZR in your hot, impatient little hands by now. As the hobby's premier DTP man, whaddya think? Really? Anyway, as I said there, the number of requests for the Zine Bank varies considerably, but I would say it averages about 3 a month. Sometimes I get 6, sometimes none. I will say, not a one has gone out in the last few months without an *Upstart* in it. And, I don't have a huge backlog of them either. So you're sending just about the right number if your goal is to get one in every Zine Bank that goes out. I'd be surprised if some of those new subbers weren't through the Bank, as I handled a fair number of requests about 2-3 months ago, for whatever reason. I am also counting on a significant number of new requests in the next month or so, as the ZR is disseminated, as word of it spreads and new orders for it come in. Already, I see a pattern: frequently a novice's order for a ZR is followed about 3 weeks to a month later with a Zine Bank request. Hey, that's what I did on entering the hobby, and seems to still be the way a lot of folks do it. As for Mr. BNC (stands for Bozo's zine Not Coming out), no he's not flaming out, he's just, well, a bozo.))

Jimmy Williams (Lexington KY): "Anyway, I just met Mickey Preston 20 minutes ago. Appearing nt the door - the house a mess and the knob had just come off the aluminum front door screen. So I had to chase the chickens out of the living room and leave the door open on account of the vapors from Mecmaw's corn squeezin's and he showed some interest in my '67 Olds. Told him I'd throw in the cinderblocks if he made a deal. Well he's on Compuserve and has a C64 so I was thrilled to tell him how the Epyx fastloader works in cutting load-time from 2 mins + to 30 seconds. Always weird meeting strangers. Now if he'd been able to come to Charlie Potter's Halloween party last night..."

Mickey Preston (Lexington KY): "It was a dark and stormy night... There I was, thinking, "why mail my Diplomacy notes to Jimmy when I can deliver them in person?" Plus, a golden chance to meet the Golden Orator, the Prolific Penman, the Cyrano of Backstab of the Diplomacy world!

"First, the preconceived notions... Jimmy must live in a Victorian manor. Locked in a study with maps of Europe nailed to walls, stacks of mail awaiting his response, unlimited stacks of postcards and pens..."

"And Jimmy himself... was he a college student? A gnome, hunched over? A statesman like Henry Clay (a famous orator from Lexington - Senator, etc.)? An average schmo, indistinguishable from the man on the street?

"Boy, was I mistaken! Jimmy lives just off a main street here in town. A nice, middle-class suburban area. Ranch style bungalow. Nice lawn.

"So... I ring the doorbell. Jimmy's door opens, to reveal..."

"His mom. Nice lady. She invites me in, and I stutter my reason amongst great trepidation (I came unannounced). She calls Jimmy, and..."

"He is quite tall. I am 6' 1", and he is bigger than that. Muscular, too. Quite sociable. We engage in a very quick, animated, long conversation. Jimmy speaks as he writes - quite intelligent, quite pointed, quite rambling (I felt like I was being drawn into a Kafkaesque play).

"Keeping up with Jimmy in conversation is not for the faint of heart. Nor is it for the uneducated, the non-glib, nor the dull-witted. There should be a warning sign on Jimmy - "Talk to at your own risk." It is comparable to being on a roller coaster with no hands. I will bring my courage to the fore and meet him FtF again soon.

"First, an insurance policy is being drawn."

Ed Wrobel (Springfield, VA): "Oh you are a clever feadist! Last issue you solicit a public confession from me, this issue you excoriate me for providing it... and you wonder why nobody invites you to Rolling Stones concerts! I decided I am indeed too old for such loud music. My cars malfunctioned for days afterward. Enclosed for *BTDT* is an article rejected by *Politesse*.

"Can you teach me *Railway Rivals*?"

((Look guys... fresh meat! Another RR victim, er, novice. Actually, Ed, it is a very easy game to learn, I would suggest you buy the boxed game, although Games Workshop has discontinued it, it is still available in a lot of game stores, and real cheap. As an alternative, someone could send you a xerox of the rules. I'd volunteer, but after attaining nirvana, er... leaving my full-time job, I don't have daily access to a xerox. Actually, I think I can dig up a copy I got from Paul Gardner when I was first learning, but I'd still recommend buying the game because 1) it's available so cheap, and 2) you get the two laminated, erasable map boards. The beauty of the game is the almost endless supply of different maps, but when you get these from a GM for a postal game, there's on paper and not reusable. So the two maps included with the game are good for playing a few FtF games to get the hang of the rules and route building strategies. Then look at the *BTDT* house rules, and sign up for one of Ken Hill's Ohio map playtests here, and answer any questions you have along the way, especially if your line is near mine, hehehe. I'd say that if you come to the Superbowl Party at WARTHOG Baltimore, we could play a game or two (it's short) but I know how feeble an offer that will be as you will lead Martin's cheerleading section as he demands we lose yet another game of 1830 to him. Anyway, banned from *Politesse*, but available here in *BTDT*, the article Wrobel wouldn't print...))

## Not on My Cloud You Don't!

- Germaine St. Steinem

"They started with *Start Me Up* and jacked off the stage with *Jumpin' Jack Flash*, looking very well pleased with themselves, faces scarred and pasty from years of debauchery, chemically induced euphoria and ear-splitting electrically amplified noise (euphemistically praised as "sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll"). Their Satanic Majesties, indeed, the very embodiment of the deep, slimy male impulse to dominate the female psyche with their hell-spawn.

"Once started up, Mick and "the boys" - an appropriate appellation for these aging paragons of male adolescent fantasy - launched into their infamous rhymes-with-rich song. Well, "boys," if you can't stand the heat, may we suggest that you leave the kitchen. We need you like a fish needs a bicycle (not very much, comprehend?).

"Mick's tender ballad, *Ruby Tuesday*. Ha! Yet another pubescent male fantasy about footloose women just dying for a one-night stand and "freedom." Get real, honey - women want commitment, not a fling with a half-deaf, aging, emotionally retarded, irresponsible jerk like you. And what happens if we get uppity, what if we *Play With Fire*? Well then, there's always the *Midnight Rambler* to Let it Loose on us, to stick his knife right down your throat, honey, and it hurts. You wish! *Give Me Shelter*!

"The tackiest moment of their show had to be the appearance of the 30-foot high, blow up party dolls for *Honky Tonk Women*. This is their conception of women. This is what they really think. This is their aphrodite, their Venus. All I can say is cuddle up, boys and have a meaningful relationship. It's no wonder you Can't Get No Satisfaction,

"The warm-up band was an all-male black heavy metal call Living Color. These guys really have balls (you could tell because of their brightly colored tights). I have to admire their fashion sense, abandoning the blacks, greys, and browns favored by misogynists for bright statements of unisexual solidarity with their sisters. Then again, maybe they were homosexuals."

## The Games

Stand by Liet: John Crosby, George Mann, Ron Cameron, Mickey Preaton, Robert Graier, Tis Moore, Vince Lutterbie, Jimmy Williams, Doug Brown, Russ Blau (Colonia), Jack McHugh, Jason Bergmann (Dip & Colonia), George Rifle, Mike Morris, Steve Heinowski, Paul Milewski, Stephan Dorneman, David Hambley (Colonia), John Schultz, Mark Nelson (), Chuck Lietz (Railway Rivala), and Stan Johnson.

## Choo Choo Coleman

19BBHE Spring 1910

THIS TIME IT'S GERMANY'S TURN TO LOSE TRACK OF UNITS! BUT IT MAY BE A MOOT POINT! SMITH GRASS 18TH CENTER, NOW JUST HAS TO BOLD IT. RUSSIAN FALLS SHORT OF GOAL OF PUTTING "NORTHERN" FLEET IN ION. THE FAT PERSON IS LOOSENING HER VOCAL CHORDS, FOLKS.

France (Morrie): F SPA S F POR; F POR S F Spa.  
 Germany (Smith): F Nrg-NAT; F MID SA Mar-Spa; A MAR-Spa; A Bur-GAS;  
 A BRE H; A Hol-BEL; F Kie-NOL; A Tua-VEN; A PIE B A Tua-Ven;  
 A TRL S A Tus-Ven; A VIE-Tri; A BUD S A Vie-Tri;  
 A GAL S A Bud; A Bil-BOH; A MOS S A Ukr; A WAR H [u]; A UKR H [u].  
 Italy (Welter): A Van S F Tri (ret:Rom-GM); F Tri S A Van;  
 F ADR B F Tri; A Rom-NAP.  
 Russia (McKee): F Naf-TUN; F TYN-Ion.  
 Turkey (Tabor): A ARM S A Sev; A SEV S A Rum; F BLA S A Rum; A SER-Bud;  
 A RUM S Ber-Bud; F WES-Tyn; F AEG-Ion; A Con-BUL.

Units By Owner:

France : F Por F Spa(ac)  
 Germany: F Mid F Nat A Bel F Hol A Bre A Gas A Mar A Pie A Van A Trl  
 A Boh A Vie A Bud A Gal A War A Moe A Ukr  
 Italy : F ADR A Rom A Nap F Tri  
 Russia : F Tyn F Tun  
 Ruasia : F Tyn F Tun  
 Turkey : A Ser A Bul A Rum A Sev A Arm F Aeg F Was

The vote on the German win was 3 yes, 2 NVR.

Proposed for next time are a German win, and a proposal to make Susan vote for the German win.

Press: (and pitiful it is, too!)



Tur - GM: Tunes - Strange Angels! & Mirror Man.

GM - Tur: Yes! And Yes! I've just started listening seriously to Strange Angels, and although I wouldn't rate it as one of the 1 or 2 strongest Laurie Anderson albums (or CDs for that matter), it is good, and I'm liking it more and more each time I listen to it. As for Mirror Man, what can you say, Captain Beefheart at his most intense, unaccessible, psychedelically infused, and flat weirdest. Al, you really should look up a zine from Ireland name of "NERTZ," which somehow is short for it's official name "Now Eat the Rabbit," by a fella name of William Whyte. It is a marvelous zine all the way around, creative the way no other zine I know of is (two recent examples were the issue that came as a giant mobius strip, and the one that had all its pages cut in three width wise with the instructions to mix 'n match to create a personalized zine of your own liking... I won't even try to describe the "spoon" issue), but he also runs a lettercol dealing with a lot of music (and other topics) you would appreciate (come to think of it, so would Morris). He threatens to do the "definitive Beefheart article" in a coming issue.

Ita-GM -> What is Germany waiting for?— Russia to hand him another center?

GM - Stubborn Susan -> No. I think he's waiting for Fall. You know what this means? By PBM tradition I'm going to have to put his name on the front cover of the next issue! Ye gods, have my sins truly been so heinous?

Deadline for Fall/Winter 1910 will be January 20. Don't forget to vote on the two proposals!

## Elio Chacon

1989J Winter 1904/Spring 1905

AUSTRIAN LEADER BACK FROM THE DEAD; AGAIN! RUSSIA RETREATS, THEN  
NEGLECTS TO REMOVE! TURKEY IN WAR, GERMANY IN BEL, FRENCH IN BRE. ENGLISH  
FLEET TRIES CREATIVE ENDEAVOR. BIG HOT SPOT IS GREECE!

Autumn 1904:

Russia retreats F Nwy-Swe.

Winter:

England Builds A Edi.

Germany Builds A Ber.

Italy removes F Was A Bel.

Russia NRR. GM removes F Swe.

Turkey Builds F Smy A Ank.

Spring:

Austria (Nickel): A TRI H.

England (Doorneman): A EDI-Yor, F Bre-Bel (IMP) (Ret: Eng, OTB); F NMG-Nth;  
F Nwy S F Nwy-Nth.

France (Moore): A Gas-BRE; A PIC S A Gas-Bre.

Germany (Rifle): A Hol-BEL; A MUN-Boh; A Ber-SIL; A Spa-GAS;  
A DEN-Yor; A MAR S A Spa-Gas; F NTH C A Den-Yor;  
F HEL S F Nth.

Italy (Lutterbis): F Por-MID; A ROH-Vie; A VEN-Tri; A ALB S F Gre;  
F GRE S A Alb; F ION S F Gre; F TYN S F Ion.

Russia (Williams): F Swe-Nwy (NSU); A STP-Mos; A War-Gal  
(rat:Pru, Lvn, OTB).

Turkey (Hoffman): A Ank-ARM; A Gal-WAR; A UKR S A Gal-War; F EAS S F  
Smy-Aeg; A VIE S A Tri; F BUL(sc) S F Aeg-Gre;  
F AEG-Gre; A SER S F Aeg-Gre; F SHY-Aeg; A MOS H [u].

Jim Nickel is back as Austria. Thanks to Stan Johnson for unused standby orders. To answer a question, yes, once a standby has been called, you can make orders conditional on who will be playing the position, the original player or the standby.

Press:

Fra-Eng: How 'bout a truce? We can fight after the Germans are gone.

GM-Fra: Was that written before or after your troops seized Brest?

Fra-Rus: C'est moi? I've been waiting for my liberator. Where are you?

Fra-Tur: Thanks, just in time!

Fra-Ger: The answer is still no. Do you remember the question?

Fra-GM: They still haven't caught on - Jimmy is winning this game by being eliminated first!

GM-Fra: You know, there is a variant where the winner is the first to be eliminated. It's called "Suicidal Dip," and was invented, fairly appropriately, by Michael Hopcroft, who seems to have the last round of "Suicidal MegaDip," but burning totally out of the hobby with no trace left behind.

An E/F/G/I/A/R draw has been proposed. Please vote on this with your next set of orders. Remember, NVR=No, but NMR=Yes.

The deadline for Fall 1905, including retreats for English F Bre and Russian A War, is Feb. 5th, 1990.

## Marv Throneberry

1989IA Winter 1901

SEASONS SEPARATED UPON REQUEST OF FOUR PLAYERS. PRESS WITHHELD UNTIL SPRING MOVES. POWERS CHOOSE TO CHECK IT OUT BEFORE MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS.

Austria (Hoffman): Build A Bud.  
England (Williams): Build F Lon, F Edi.  
France (Preston): Build F Lyo, A Bre.  
Germany (Brandon): Build F Kie, A Ber.  
Italy (Heintzman): Build A Ven.  
Russia (Norman): Build F Stp (nc), A Mos.  
Turkey (Carlberg): Build A Con, F Smy

Units by Owner, Winter 1901:

Austria: F Tri, A Ser, A Vic, A Bud.  
England: F Nth, A Bel, F Nwy, F Lon, F Edi.  
France: A Spa, F Por, A Par, F Lyo, A Bre.  
Germany: A Mun, F Hol, A Den, F Kie, A Ber.  
Italy: A Boh, A Tyo, F Tun, A Ven.  
Russia: F Swe, A Gal, A Rum, F Sev, F StP(nc), A Mos.  
Turkey: A Gre, A Bul, F Bla, A Con, F Smy.

Deadline for Spring 1902 is Feb. 5, 1990.

I have Spring orders on file from you \_\_\_\_\_, I don't have Spring orders on file \_\_\_\_\_.

---

## Duke Snider

Regular Diplomacy 1989KH Winter 1900

Two requests to hold off Spring 1901 until next deadline for additional negotiating.  
I have provisional orders for Spring 1901 on hand for most everyone. They can, of course, be changed at any time, but if I hear nothing further from you, I will use those orders.

Austria - Jonas Johnson  
England - Harold Zarr, Jr.  
France - Ken Hill  
Germany - Dan Hodel  
Italy - Michael Lowrey  
Russia - Tim Moore  
Turkey - Steve Sulzberg

I have order son hand for you \_\_\_\_\_. I Have no orders on hand \_\_\_\_\_.

Final deadline for Spring 1901 is Feb. 5, 1990.

---

## Frank Thomas

Gunboat 1989IKrb32 or 1989AAra Winter 1901/Spring 1902

ASSAULT ON RUMANIA CONTINUES, AND IT CONTINUES TO BE UNSUCCESSFUL.  
ITALIANS ABANDON TRIESTE IN FAVOR OF VIENNA, RETAKE VENICE, AS AUSTRIANS  
GO HOME TO TRIESTE. SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH GREECE? ENGLISH LAND IN SPAIN,  
AS FRENCH VACATE IN FAVOR OF PORTUGAL. GERMANY IS ONLY SIX-CENTER POWER  
WITH NO ENEMIES!

Austrie builds A Bud  
England builds F Lon  
France builds A Par  
Germany builds A Mun F Kis A Ber  
Italy builds A Rom  
Russia builds A Mos A War  
Turkey builds F Con

Austrie: A ~~BUD-Rum~~; A SER S A Bud-Rum; A GAL S A ~~Bud-Rum~~; F Ven-TRI.  
England: A NWY H; F WTH S A Nwy; F Lon-ENG; F Mid-SPA(sc).  
France: A PAR S A Bur; A BUR H; A Spa-POR; F Bre-GAS.  
Germany: A Mun-RUH; F Kis-HEL; A BEL S A Mun-Ruh; A Den-KIE;  
F HOL S F Kie-hel; A Ber-MUN.  
Italy: A Tri-VIE; A Rom-VEN; A APU S A Rom-Ven; F Tun-ION.  
Russie: A ~~MAR-Gal~~; A MOS S A Sev; A SEV S F Rum; F RUM S A Sev;  
A UKR S F Rum; F SWE S (E) A Nwy.  
Turkey: A ~~ARM-Sev~~; A BUL S (A) A ~~Gal-Rum~~(NSO); F SLA S A Arm-Sev;  
F Con-AEG.

Units by Owner, Summer 1902:

Austria: A BUD A SER A GAL F TRI.  
England: A NWY F NTH F ENG F SPA(sc).  
France : A PAR A BUR A POR F GAS.  
Germany: A RUH F HEL A BEL A KIE F HOL A MUN.  
Italy : A VIE A VEN A APU F ION.  
Russia : A WAR A MOS A SEV F RUM A UKR F SWE.  
Turkey : A ARM A BUL F BLA F AEG.

*StP-Lon*: You don't have anything to worry about. Now do I?

*StP-Con*: Go ahead, good buddy!

*Italy-France*: Never mind about that plea for help last season. I thin you may have your hands full as it is...

*Italy-Turkey*: Help! Help! Help!

*Italy-Aus*: Hey! Hey! Get your butt outta Venice, you... you... Metzke-ite.

*Italy-Germany*: Yikes! Glad Switzerland is neutral...

*Italy-England*: Jeepers - I wuz kidding about the Channel. How's Portugal this time of year?

*GM-Italy*: "Jeepers?" What decade do you grow up in?

*France-Germany*: I'm not coming near you. Go for England. I'll help.

*France-England*: Pffftttt.

*Turkey-Austria*: Sorry for the head bumping. Maybe we guessed right this time.

*GM-Turkey*: And then again, maybe not....

*Turkey-Italy*: Peace Bro?

*GM-Turkey*: And groovy luv to ya, like, man. Oh wow. The trails...

Deadline for Fall 1902 is February 5, 1990.

## Casey Stengel

Gunboat Fall 1901

TURKO/RUSSIAN WAR HEATS UP! RUSSIA NEGLECTS TO COVER RUM, AND OTTOMANS  
OVERRUN IT. BELGIUM OTHER AREA OF CONFLICT, BUT GERMANS STAY OUT OF IT.  
CRACK GERMAN DIVISIONS GO SKIING AT AUSTRIAN RESORTS INSTEAD.

Austria: A Vie-TRI; F Alb-GRE; A SER S F Alb-Gra.  
England: F Nwg-NWY; F NTH C A Yor-Bel; A YOR-Bel.  
France : F Mid-POR; A BUR-Bel; A Mar-SPA.  
Germany: A Kia-HOL; A Mun-TYO; F DEN H.  
Italy : F IOH C A APU-Tun; A APU-TUN; A VEN H.  
Russia : F Bot-SWE; A WAR-UKr; A UKR-Sev; F SEV-Bla.  
Turkey : A Bul-RUM; F ANK-Bla; A ARM-Sev.

Centers by Owner, Winter, 1901:

Austria: Vie Bud Tri SER GRE - 5 (+2)  
England: Lon Edi Lvp NWY - 4 (+1)  
France : Par Mar Bre POR SPA - 5 (+2)  
Germany: Mun Kie Ber HOL DEN - 5 (+2)  
Italy : Ven Rom Nap TUN - 4 (+1)  
Russia : Sev Moa StP War SWE - 5 (+1)  
Turkey : Con Smy Ank RUM - 4 (+1)  
Neutral: Bel Bul - 2

Press:

*Vienna-Con:* Greetings, friend! Say, that was an awfully large and oppressive expanse of white just to the north, don't you think? I must say, I think it would look better in shades of yellow and red.

*Russia-Austria:* How about a little holiday Turkey? I found his move to Armenia a bit hostile. You get Bul and Smy. I get Con and Ank. Deal?

*Italy-Austria:* No need to come all the way over here for your ravioli, we deliver! And we'll be happy to drop some off for your German friends as well.

*Ven-Tri:* Let's play it close to the vest. I don't like black press games, so ignore all press from Italy as I more than likely didn't write it. The rest of you guys can have a field day.

*Con-Vie:* We have no territorial demands in southeastern Europe beyond Bulgaria and Romania.

*Con-Rom:* No Ottoman galleys will sail the Mediterranean unless you request our aid.

*Rus-Ita:* LePanto, anyone?

*England to GM:* What was wrong with my Spring 1901 press?

*GM to Eng:* Nothing, so here it is:

*Lon to All:* I love Bavarian beer! So I'm throwing a party in Munich. Everyone is invited. *I'm buying!*

*London to Paris:* I'll discuss trading some good English ale for a good Burgundy at the party. That way, I can write the party off my taxes.

*Turkey-Austria:* It would appear my friend that Russia is attempting to move against both of us while having the gall to try and tell England to stay out of Scandinavia. I don't know who this turd thinks he is, but I am willing to support you into Rumania in the Spring as the first step towards lasting peace between us and the destruction of Russia. Let us hope that England and Germany will take advantage of this situation and and drive to Saint Petersburg and Warsaw with all haste and put an end to this menace to European peace and prosperity quickly.

*Turkey-Germany:* You are cordially invited to dinner. The meal will be served in the Spring of 1902 and Russian Bear will be the main course. You are invited to attend at the summer dinner theatre in Warsaw. Plan on staying.

*Turkey-England:* The rich forests around St Petersburg will provide ample supplies of wood for your sailing yachts. We desire a sincere neighbor to the north with which to trade our goods. We invite you to set up shop there and add a new colony to your empire. We send you our best wishes for a quick journey.

*Germany-France:* Okay, Mr. Froggie, if you want a fight you shall have a fight. I will pound your wine-infested, spineless, bourgeois, poofier republic that you call a "nation" into the ground, back to where you ancestors crawled out from underneath the rocks, where you belong! The German Empire backs away from no one! Apologize to our winemakers immediately or face the wrath of the Kaiser and his wine merchants.

*Germany-Russia:* Let's keep the Scandinavian a German-Russian preserve, eh?

*Germany-England:* How about Brest - wouldn't that make a fine base for His Majesty's Royal Navy? I hear Iberia is also lovely this time of year.

*Germany-Italy:* Just to let you know, I did *not* order any pizzas!

*Germany-Austria:* Yeah, I hear the Alps are lovely. However, the Italians wouldn't let me go and see for myself. Spoil sports, those Italians!

Playlist while typing all this press: *Disraeli Gears* - Cream. So yeah, I'm on a nostalgia kick, so sue me!

Deadline for Winter 1901/Spring 1902 is Feb 5, 1990. Remember, it'll take 4 requests to separate seasons.

---

ORPHANED ANNIE BAHAMUT 1987 T Winter (at last!) 1903

GM Susan Welter 401 S. 1st St. Apt 812 Minneapolis, MN 55401

—> Game revived from the Dead!

—> GM (aka Den Mom) moves to new address (see above)

Hi Gang: Well-II-1 this game has finally been revived and has found a new home and a new GM. If you're reading *BTDT* for the first time, I hope you enjoy it. It's a mighty fine 'zine (Oh, quit bowing, Nash <g>) and offers a lot more than just game results. Since so much time has elapsed (something over a year since Fall of '03), I didn't hear back from 3 of the original players. Never fear — replacements have already been found. For the record — here's the line-up!

AUSTRIA: Mark Rowell 913 Weslon Place, Bremerton, WA 98312

ENGLAND: Melinda Ann Holley P.O. Box 2793 Huntington, WV 25727

FRANCE: Dennis Fletcher (aka The Minister) 392 Sentry Ln. Westerville, Ohio 43081

GERMANY: Peter Mateunas Clifton Park Apts Bldg 4 Apt 8S Clifton Park, NY 12065

ITALY: Dave Lowe 7640 E. Harvard Ave. #201 Denver, CO 80123

RUSSIA: Mike Ward 577 Roosevelt Hwy #16 Colchester, VT 05446

TURKEY: Ken Hill 6199 Rockland Dr. Dublin, OH 43017

Since I've written or E-mailed my GM 'house rules' to you about this game I will only cover it again here briefly. This game will be played using a hybrid British/American separate seasons. That is, until there's a majority vote for NO winter or Summer separation, ONLY Winter will continue to be a separate adjustment season. That means you MUST send me contingent retreat orders for your units in your Spring orders. If no retreat orders are sent, I, as GM, will use the "right-hand rule" for retreats.

I write the Unit position/Center held portion of the game report using ALL CAPS for Supply Centers OWNED and Upper/Lower case for non-center unit positions and non-owned supply centers occupied. In the actual results section, I use < > for unsuccessful orders. ((Which I will change to underlines in the report I publish here, along with putting the current unit position in ALL CAPS, for the sake of consistency within the zine - ed.))

Enough said. Here's where you stand now:

#### — WINTER 1903 ADJUSTMENTS —

AUSTRIA: A Ser (was dislodged) and retreats OTB. Build: A BUD

ENGLAND: No adjustments necessary (MAN)

FRANCE: NAN

GERMANY: NRR. GM removes F Hel

ITALY: Retreats A Ven OTB; also removes A Pie

RUSSIA: Builds F STP(nc); A WAR

TURKEY: Builds F SHY; A CON

#### ----- Winter 1903 CENTERS Owned and Unit Positions -----

AUSTRIA: (4) VIE / A BUD; A VEN; A TRI; A Tyl

ENGLAND: (3) LVP / F EDI; F LON; F Cly

FRANCE: (5) BRE PAR POR SPA / A MAR; A Bur; A Pic; F Eng; F Nat

GERMANY: (4) KIE / F BEL; A HOL; A MUN; A Ruh

ITALY: (2) F ROM; F TUN

RUSSIA: (9) MOS / F STP(nc); A WAR; F DEN; A BER; F NWY; A SWE; F SEV; A RUM; A Gal

TURKEY: (7) ANK BUL / A CON; F SHY; A SER; A NAP; A GRE; F Aeg; F Ion

--- PRESS ---

GM-France --> Dennis, send me your address ASAP. It's now up to you to write all these fine folks.

Editor - GM: Dennis' address has been added to the report, for your convenience.

GM-The Great " " (Nash-o-la to those who need translation) -- THANKS for the NEW HOME. We're glad to be here! Love & XX's, D'Mom

Editor - Susan: Aw, shucks. Thanks to you for taking on the game.

[Excerpts from the Austrian Herald Tribune]

Vienna: "Let's see, where were we? Oh, I remember now! ... Help! Help!

Bud to Mun, Lon & Rom --> Would the rest of you be quiet? I can hardly hear myself yell for help!

Tri to Mun & Lon --> What's this!? You are yelling for help too!!!! Well, we sound horrible. How about we do it in 4 part harmony? I sing bass and Italy hasn't written me, so he is in charge of the rests. What parts do you want?

--- Proposals ---

Vote with your spring orders. NVR = YES in this case.

Full British Rules (ie: no separate Winter or Spring. Contingent retreats due in the spring and contingent retreats, builds and removals due with your fall orders.)

--- Deadline ---

February 5, 1990 (5 days before the regular BTDT deadline). And remember, orders to Susan, **NOT** Tom!

## Roger Craig

Colonia VI 1989JDgh09 or 1989AF/wb Spring 1751

Holland (Leamons): F Hag-HAN(wc); A Ant-HAG; A Sur-BEL; A Ang-COM;  
A Gos-WIE.

Portugal (Morris): F Lis-CAN; A Lag-LIS; A Cpc-KAL; A Ala-VAN; F Mbo-COR.

Spain (Johnson): A Mex-TEX; A Mad-AGN; F Val-WMS; A Som-KEN; F Mnl-WFO.

Ottoman (Hunter): A Ism-BAG; A Bag-ARA; A Jer-EGY; A Bra-BAH; F Ist-IMS.

Austria (Hyatt): A Fla-LOU; A Vie-SAV; A Bud-GAL; F Tri-ADR; F Haw-MEL.

China (Heffner): A Pek-NAN; F Amo-ECS; A Wuh-CTN; A San-CHINGHAI.

Russia (Shapiro): F StP-BAL; A Kie-CRI; A Mos-KIE; A Oms-WON; F Vla-KOR;  
F Tah-BIS.

France (Winship?): A Par-BUR; F Bdx-BBI; A Tou-SAV; A Que-ONT; A Dak-GHA.

England (Aube): F Edi-NAO; F Lon-WTH; A Ecu-COL; A Nig-KAN; A Mla-SIA.

**Important Note:** As you can see, Vince Leamons' orders for Holland of A HAG-Den, A ANT-Hag, neither of which succeeded due to Hag and Den not being contiguous, on the original adjudication sent to you all, has been changed to the successful move of A Hag-HAN(wc) and A Ant-HAG. The reason being that the illegal order was entirely my fault for supplying badly reproduced maps, in particular, ones that had the Western European sector totally screwed up. On Vince's copy, you cannot tell that Hag and Den are not contiguous. Therefore I have allowed the changed order to stand. Hopefully, we will have the map problem solved shortly. Besides the map Vince and his artist friend have produced (but with mistakes in Western Europe since they were working with a defective map?) I mentioned, Fred Hyatt is also sending me a better copy, with less sections to it, or his map. PLEASE, if you have a damaged map, let me know, ASAP, so I can send you a better one! After this move, with the open offer extended, you as players are responsible!

Doug Winship is the ultimate bozo in my book. If this is what growing up on St. Simons does to your brain, maybe I should reconsider. Yes, it is true that the deadline fell on the very day of Doug's wedding (congrats, Bozo!), but: 1) let's get our priorities straight, shall we Doug? I mean was *that* worth an NMR? 2) You had 2 1/2 months *before* the damned wedding to get me orders! So, as per my House Rules and a first year NMR, a set of neutral orders was solicited and provided by an uninvolved third party. To set the record straight, however, 3 other players requested the first season's extension... we didn't wait a month just on Doug only to have him NMR. After 1751, we will be playing all units hold on NMRs. Will Russell Blau, 9023 Lake Braddock Drive, Burke, VA, 22015, please submit standby orders for France?

Fred, is there an abbreviation for Chinghai?

Forsaking historical accuracy for the sake of a neatly lined up report, I am calling Netherlands Holland in the game report... Netherlands is too long and I couldn't figure out a way to make it all line up neatly. OK, so call me anal retentive! I'm really not, as evidenced by all the typos, I just happen to like game reports that line up fairly neatly. That's why I have to switch to an ugly fixed space font, although when I get WordPerfect 5.1 (after the bugs are gone) there'll be a way around that.

Press:

<Saint Petersburg> By proclamation of His Excellency, Tsar Nicholas, Emperor of all the Russias and True Defender of the Holy Church of Eastern Orthodoxy, you are commanded to bear his orders and carry the message to all in the known world!

By order of His Excellency, Tsar Nicholas, Emperor of all the Russias and True Defender of the Holy Church of Eastern Orthodoxy, the Generals are ordered to march to the South and reclaim our beloved Crimea. Understand, all who hear, that this is and has been part of our motherland. Rich with cultures and farmlands, the Crimea will remain an integral part of the Russias, as much as the Ukraine, breadbasket of the poor, with its capital of Kiev.

By order of His Excellency, Tsar Nicholas, Emperor of all the Russias and True Defender of the Holy Church of Eastern Orthodoxy, the Generals are ordered to march to the South and reclaim Mongolia from the hands of Ghengis, the Khan. His teachings in the art of horsemanship has not gone for naught, and our Cossacks have taken the lessons to heart. Be forewarned, that there are no greater horsemen in all of the known world as the beloved, and loyal, cossacks.

By order of His Excellency, Tsar Nicholas, Emperor of all the Russias and True Defender of the Holy Church of Eastern Orthodoxy, be it known to all loyal citizens of the Russian Empire that the Tsar will personally reward all who wish to go forth and colonize new areas in the name of the Empire and the Holy Russian Church. Just as our strong and able men living in Tahiti are leaving for the Bismark Sea and the prospect of starting a new colony, we call for others to do the same. For your bravery and loyalty, there will be great rewards. For the meek and cowardly, we can guarantee a peaceful final resting.

<St. Petersburg> Russian fleets set sail this morning without a specific destination known. Officers on board the fleet's flagship would only reveal that the navy would be conducting maneuvers in the Baltic. In a completely unrelated incident, the Russian fishing fleet, currently in port in Vladivostok has sailed into territorial waters of Korea. Ari Vlandanovich, one of the disgruntled fisherman informed authorities



that Russian fishermen were tired of continual raids by Korean sailors that led to diminished catches. If the government will not help us, we will help ourselves.

(Byzantium) Welcome everyone. The Grand Vizier wishes to express his regards and hopes that the next few season's will be peaceful ones! We will entertain all offers of alliance with the desired result of forging a permanent bond of iron. A bond which will withstand the effects of all forces.

The deadline for Fall 1751 is February 5, 1990.

## Railway Rivals - Spain Map

724SP Round 2

NIGHT HEADS WEST WITH SLIM LEAD. L&LC ENRICHES BoS BY ESCHEWING CONDITIONALS. PUTA AND CDS PAYMENTS TO EACH OTHER CANCEL OUT. TORO TRAIN FINALLY GETS A TOWN, THREE OF THEM, IN FACT.

CDS (Hill, red): 2a. (C66)-D65-E65-Valladolid; (F64)-G64. 2b. (G64)-H63-I63-J62-Salamanca. 2c. (Salamanca)-L61-M61-N60-O60-P59; (F64)-F63 (pays PUTA 2).

Toro Train (Brown, brown): 2a. (C56)-Madrid-C61 (pays NIGHT 1). 2b. (C61)-C62; (F49)-Cordoba; (F47)-D46. 2c. (C34)-A55; (D46)-C47-Granada; (F48)-H47.

PUTA (von Metzke, orange): 2a. (E68)-F67-Leon. 2b. (F67)-F64-Valladolid (pays TT 2). 2c. (F64)-F62-D61.

NIGHT (Goode, black): 2a. (C57)-Toledo-F58-H57. 2b. (H57)-I58-J57-K58-L57. 2c. (F58)-D59; (L57)-M57-Caceres.

MR (Gardner, yellow): 2a. (O68)-N67-N66-M66. 2b. (M66)-L65-L64. 2c. (N64)-L61-Salamanca; (L61)-M61-M60 (pays CDS 4).

VIC (Cain, green): 2a. (A57)-C58-Madrid (pays NIGHT 1); (C58)-Toledo. 2b. (Murcia)-W8. 2c. (W8)-X7-Y8-A47.

BoS (Zetzer, blue): 2a. (Zaragoza)-V27-V28. 2b. (V28)-V30; (V27)-W26. 2c. (V30)-V32.

L&LC (Preston, purple): 2a. (L26)-Lerida-Q28. 2b. (Q28)-R28-U27 (pays BoS 1). 2c. (U27)-Zaragoza; (U27)-X28 (pays BoS 7).

| Revenue: | Old | Towns | Payments | New |
|----------|-----|-------|----------|-----|
| NIGHT    | 26  | 12    | +2       | 40  |
| CDS      | 23  | 12    | +4       | 39  |
| BoS      | 26  |       | +8       | 34  |
| TT       | 20  | 15    | -1       | 34  |
| PUTA     | 23  | 6     | 0        | 29  |
| VIC      | 26  | 3     | -1       | 28  |
| L&LC     | 26  | 6     | -8       | 24  |
| MR       | 26  |       | -4       | 22  |

Rolls for round 3 are: 4-4-6.

Press:

Gardner-GM & Cain: OK, OK... I'll renew my sub to Vic and sign up for that game. I had second thoughts when I let my sub lapse, now I know why.

Gardner-GM: You bet someone rates RR games (see NNY #52)! I would never play in a game such as Tom's because I always build for the race rounds and would get creamed!

GM-All: What Paul refers to is something he concocted... a North American RR ratings which rates everyone ever to finish a known game of RR in North America. What's the deal Paul, slow time at work? <Grin>. I have one major problem with the system used. To the best of my memory, the number of points you get for finishing in each place is weighted by the number of players in the game. So winning an 8 player game counts more then winning a 3 player game. Fair enough, I'm with you so far. But I seem to remember that you actually get more points for finishing 3rd in an 8 player game then you do for winning a 3 player game. Or something to that effect. Uh-uh. I believe winning should always be rewarded more highly than any other outcome, in any game, and to a fairly substantial tune, regardless of the number of players.

NIGHT-GM: Thanks for printing my question about whether Swider's RR game is ratable. BUt, I know find myself not really caring. Even if it is considered ratable, I don't like the idea of going through the (card) deck only once.

GM-NIGHT: You and Paul in unison on that one. I'm going to give it a try.

GM-All: Well the great experiment in weekly deadlines electronic mail RR is going well. I'm GMing the New England map in Ken's newest zine, *Electric Trains*. He's playing. We've done 4 turns in 5 weeks, only missing one week over Christmas due to a set of missing orders. The game moves, that's for sure, but the time you get the next *BTDT* we'll be over halfway through the race rounds.

Deadline for round 3 is February 5, 1990.

## Railway Rivals - C & O Map

725CO - Round 4

A few notes first: In Round 1, MAL built one hex too far, specifically I24-I23. This was pointed out to me before this, but I was fundamentally too lazy to get around to correcting it until now. I am compensating by shaving the last hex off segment 3 of this round for MAL. Secondly, after typing in the adjudication last time, I neglected to draw in the third segment for a couple of lines, and therefore missed the following two payments: L&LC pays TOM NASH 2 got G37-Petersburg. And CORE pats OHIO 1 for P24. These will be added to the "old" column in the revenue chart.

L&LC DECIDES ITS THE GIVING SEASON, AND WANTS TO BE MORE BLESSED. MAL CHIEF BENEFICIARY, RIDES L&LC'S GIFTS TO BIG LEAD. OHIO GRABS TOWNS OUT WEST. CORE CONSOLIDATES.

MAL (Hill, red): 4a. (I11)-I10. 4b. (I10)-Bluefield (I10)-I6-J5 4c. (J5)-K4-L4-Williamson.

L&LC (Preston, black): 4a. (B17)-E19. 4b. (E19)-F19-G19-Roanoke-K21 (pays MAL 3) 4c. (K21)-Covington; (B16)-A16 (pays MAL 13).

CORE (Brown, brown): 4a. (Fredericksburg)-S34; (Q24)-R23. 4b. (M28)-Charlottesville; (Lyncbburg)-G24. 4c. (Charlottesville)-P29; (R23)-S23.

BX (Goode, Burgundy): 4a. (U37)-S36; (Z39)-A90. 4b. (Winchester)-Z30; (E78)-E80-F80; (B69)-B68-A68. 4c. (A68)-Clarksburg-Y15.

TOM NASH (von Metzke, Orange): 4a. (J35)-Richmond. 4b. (Richmond)-L36; (C22)-F20-F19-G19 (pays L&LC 3, MAL 1) 1c. L36-P34 (pays CORE 1).

OHIO (Gardner, blue): 4a. (L11)-M11. 4b. (M11)-L10-Mullens (M11)-Beckley-P9-P8. 4c. (P8)-Charlestown-R5.

| Revenue: | Old | Towns | Payments | New |
|----------|-----|-------|----------|-----|
| MAL      | 45  | 12    | +17      | 74  |
| OHIO     | 39  | 18    |          | 57  |

|          |    |   |     |    |
|----------|----|---|-----|----|
| BX       | 38 | 6 |     | 44 |
| TOM NASH | 34 |   | -5  | 29 |
| CORE     | 23 |   | +1  | 24 |
| L&LC     | 21 |   | -13 | 8  |

Again, folks, I will gladly do an interim adjudication. Deadline for Round 5 is Feb 5, 1990, but if I get all 6 sets of orders by January 21, I will adjudicate at that point.

Rolls for Round 5 are: 6-4-6

## Kremlin

Richie Ashburn - Turn 1A

**PALAVARIAN AND EATSTUMUCH ON COLLISION COURSE IN BATTLE FOR SUCCESSION TO NESTOR. PALAVARIAN'S PURGE ATTEMPT FAILS, SO HE IS PLACED UNDER INVESTIGATION. SEVERAL FACTIONS OPT TO WAIT OUT EARLY FIGHTING. OTHER TRY TO GET INVOLVED, BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO WORK. NESTOR GETS DEATHLY ILL.**

| Player Name:      | Faction Name:                                       | Color: |
|-------------------|---|--------|
| Jeff McKee        | Fuzzy Wuzzy Teddy Bears (FWTB)                      | Black  |
| Ken Hill          | Committee of Messy, Neaty, Inebriated Bels (COMMIE) | Red    |
| Doug Ninship      | The Cosmo-Anarchists (TCAs)                         | Brown  |
| Ed Wrobel         | Multiparticipational Generative Gamesters (NGG)     | Yellow |
| Melodie Lutterbie | Chompalot Candidacy (CC)                            | Blue   |
| Jason Bergmann    | Ricochet's Reformers (RR)                           | Purple |

**FWTB** declare 6 on Palavarian, 1 on Zenjarplan. Control both of them.

**Cure:** Nobody goes to Sanitarium.

**Purge:** Palavarian attempts to purge Eatstumuch, fails, and ages to 73.

**Investigation:** Eatstumuch condemns Protzky to Siberia, ages to 66. Places Nikotin and Palavarian under investigation. Ages to 68.

**Health:** Nestor becomes very sick (++), as do Talksalott, and Zenjarplan.

**Positions:** (\* = controls)

**Party:** Aparatschik; 80; ++.

**KGB:** Palavarian (FWTB-6\*, COMMIE-3); 73; ?.

**Foreign:** Bungaloff (COMMIE-3\*, FWTB-2); 54.

**Defense:** Eatstumuch (COMMIE-1\*); 68.

**Ideology:** Talksalott; 67; ++. **Industry:** Badenuff; 53. **Economy:** Zenjarplan (FWTB-1\*); 60; ++.

**Sport:** Nikotin; 59; ?.

**Candidates:** Schrutoff; 75. Goferbroke; 74. Mischif; 68. Strychnin; 53. Vacant.

**Siberia:** Protzky.

For Turn 1B please send orders for Funeral, Replacement, Rehabilitation, and Parade phases. Remember, you can declare IP at any point, and your orders can be as conditional and/or complex as you wish. Yes, even more than "I'm not going to do anything this turn." Really.

---

# The Development of Eurorails

An Article by Steve Courtemanche

*(( When I dreamed up the big choo choo games issue (number 8), among the articles I actively solicited was one on this topic from Steve. I'd read in one of Linda's con reviews in High Inertia that Steve was involved in Mayfair Games conversion of the Empire Builder/British Rails game system to the continental European map. As I was a great fan of this game system, and Eurorails had not (has not yet) hit the market, I thought an article on its development would be interesting. I got no response from Steve at the time, but then, a bit after the issue came out, this article arrived with an apology for missing the deadline. Take it away Steve....))*

The original idea for *Eurorails* did not spring from my brain. It actually came to fruition in the brain of everyone's favorite Darksider, Bruce Linsey. I tell you that man is just out to undermine the Diplomacy hobby with the siren's call of the locomotive (Choo choo!). Bruce laid the groundwork using the success of *Railway Rivals* variants as a springboard. Sadly though, he did not have time to follow through on his brainchild and he brought me into the picture.

Darwin Bromley was the contact person at Mayfair Games. We exchanged a few phone calls and letters regarding the design (i.e. how many products, of what types, and terrain). The research was left up to me.

The map was the easy part. I was given certain dimensions that I had to stay within and I knew what part of Europe I wanted. Out came my trusty Dip board and a twelve inch ruler. You got it boys and girls, I hand drew my first draft of a map. There isn't a computer in the Courtemanche household so no MacPaint program. I always had a knack for being able to copy black and white pictures.

The outline of the map is completed but now I need to do some research. What major rivers do I include? Where do the mountain ranges go? Which cities should be included and what do they produce? These and other questions whirl through my mind as I put everything together to send to Mayfair Games.

Mayfair was able to make a laminated European mapboard based on my design for use at Paul Gardner's TomatoCon. I was in New York finishing up an inspection trip so I breathed a sigh of relief as Linda came up to me toting the map under her arm. It almost didn't make it. Oh yes, I met Linda at the airport in Albany on the last day of my business trip.

We got in two good playtests while at Paul's. The first had eight players and never really finished even after 10 hours of play. Too many people were dumping cards causing the disasters to come up fast. Everyone enjoyed the game, but their comments were well taken: 1) There were too many small contracts (<\$7m) and not enough medium ones (\$10-15m) to offset the rebuilding of bridges "washed out." 2) There are about 10 rivers capable of flooding. 3) The disasters have too much impact on the game (they certainly did on this one. As soon as someone got a head of steam, it seemed they got derailed or the bridge ahead of them got washed out). 4) Eighty four cities was a bit much and cheapened the value of some of the contracts.

The second game only has four players and went a bit smoother. We agreed to end the game at a set amount of money accumulated or three hours of game time. We made both limits. The disasters were

a nuisance again, but livable. The game divided into two games, really. Two players worked with Eastern Europe, and two with the West.

Back at the ranch, I took a long, hard look at the deck and board. A few cities weren't used because they were either a) too close to another city with the same product, b) didn't have enough contracts going to them, or c) too costly to build to. These cities were eliminated. One of the two Rail Tax cards was eliminated because the extra bridge rebuilding more than made up for it. Everyone needs, at least, 4 bridges in this game. I used the extra disaster card to spread out the floods and now some rivers don't flood. The last change was to recalculate the contracts and make some new ones because of the eliminated cities.

The game was again playtested during Vertigo Games at Brad Wilson's mother's. It was a three player game. The comment about too many cities came up again (sigh) as well as a new wrinkle. There weren't enough east-west runs to make that type of build worthwhile. The game had a definite north-south slant and it was merely a choice of Eastern vs Western Europe. Hmmm, looks like I have some more homework to do.

If you want more information on the Euro-Rail Project, then you should get in touch with Mayfair Games. Their address is:

Mayfair Games, Inc.  
P.O. Box 48539  
Niles, IL 60641  
(312) 647-9650

We convinced them there was a market for *Family Business* and they put out a second printing. Now, let's do it for *Euro-Rail*! I don't get any royalties so there's no money in my pocket when you buy a set.

*((Steve, I don't know if you plan on coming to World DipCon, but if you do, I strongly urge you to bring whatever version the game is in at that point in time for further playtesting and general exposure. Hope to play it there!))*

*One final note on rail game articles. Bruce MacIntyre has recently sent me an enormous article on Rail Baron he wrote a year or two back for Dave Carter's old zine, *Sleepless Knights*. The only way I can print it is to heavily edit it, which I would not attempt to without knowing the game, as I wouldn't have the vaguest idea what was critical not to cut in order to understand the flow of the article. However, understanding, again, that games my wife and I play with any kind of regularity have to fit into a Sunday afternoon nap time, or be playable between 9 PM and exhaustion time, simplicity is a necessary virtue. So knowing full well ahead of time the limitations or RB, I bought a couple of weeks ago. We've played twice since then, once just the two of us, once with another couple. A rather silly, but amusing in it's own way, kind of game. Not altogether bad, at all. So I may now tackle editing MacBruce's article, or then again, he may want to do it for me (hint, hint) I'd still like a basic *Railway Rivals* strategy article from one of you RR addicts out there.))*

---

## The Mann-Orne Debate!

OR, "GEORGE, YOU CHEAP SLUT..."

*((Editor's Note: As most BIDD readers know by now, George Mann is a strange sort. His idea of a good time is to watch a couple of middle aged, flabby guys sweat a lot and chase each other around a ring in a choreographed dance of intricate grimaces and ritualistic grapplings, and call it sport. In other words, he likes professional wrestling. A lot. And publishes a Dip zine devoted to the event, called *Son of Flip*. David Orne, George's fellow Floridian, published a few caustic words in BIDD on his opinion of George and his chosen past time. George responded by dedicating the next issue of *SoF* to David,*

lampooning him, and sent David a copy. Now David refuses to sub to SoE. So the guys agreed they needed a neutral site (sort of a xeroxed Steel Cage, eh?) to carry out the debate they proposed to have. And so, starting here, BTDT shall be the site of the great debate of the Nineties... Orne vs. Mann on Professional Wrestling! We hear first from George. David will reply next issue, and both say they actively encourage and solicit letters from you, dear readers. Kind of like grabbing your chair at the Coliseum, rushing the ring, and giving ol' Million Dollar Ted DeBiase a smack on the back with it, eh?))

**George Mann:** David Orne said he wanted this debate called Point/Counterpoint, but since the topic is professional wrestling, I thought Armbar/Reverse Armbar is more appropriate.

For those who don't know why this response is warranted, a brief history. Way back in BTDT #8, David Orne made some comments denouncing my habitual viewing of wrestling. I subsequently dedicated the next issue of my zine, Son of Flip, to David. It was a dynamic issue containing all kinds of wrestling stuff and in particular eight pages on Dusty Rhodes alone! Just gives me goose pimples recalling it. At any rate, the Mann/Orne debate has started and like a good sport David has invited me to throw the first bionic elbow.

First off, there is no question that wrestling is a legitimate, professional sport. Jerry Lawler taught Andy Kaufman that lesson a few years ago by pile driving him into the mat. After a few days in the hospital, Andy Kaufman went on to claim the title of Women's World Champion. Not too long ago Geraldo questioned the authenticity of wrestling to Dr. D. Geraldo's ear drum was subsequently busted. Professional wrestling is a sport. The question I consider debatable is whether or not it is a benefit to society.

Of course it is. It would be easy enough to justify the existence of professional wrestling by comparing it with the barbarity of ice hockey or boxing. But, then who's to say either one of these so called sports are worthwhile to society? Professional wrestling has to stand on its own merit, and it does.

Professional wrestlers are great athletes. Most of them are either ex-football players or excellent amateur wrestlers turned pro. Unlike athletes in other sports, wrestlers never have an off season. They travel and wrestle 365 days a year. There is no better athlete today, just as there wasn't one in the Roman Empire era. Once again I digress. Back to social value.

Just as soap operas portray real life characters and situations through the medium of drama, wrestling reflects real life conflicts through the medium of sport. Yes, wrestlers can be distinctly classified into three categories: Good Guys, Bad Guys, and the enigmatic Loners. But what is so different about people in general or in particular people in your workplace? These same three categories fir most people. Admittedly the Loner could be termed neutral or highly independent. But a rose by any other name...

If wrestling is deemed fake by people because it grossly oversimplifies the Good Guy/Bad Guy conflict, then society should be deemed fake. Wrestling has existed for thousands of years and is a direct reflection of society. Just as literature is. Just as architecture is. Etc, etc. All sports have their bad guys and good guys. They are just as easily categorized in other sports as in wrestling.

Wrestling is a definite benefit to society as it provides a medium for people to fantasize and relieve tension. Just as you read a book to experience something outside your current lifestyle, people watch wrestling to experience the thrill of competition and victory. Spectators can't be world wrestling champ just as they can't be Batman or Don Juan. But they sure become well rounded citizens by observing the ongoing conflicts and consequences thereof experienced by professional wrestlers. If you can learn from what someone else has experienced, then society has been enhanced.

In closing, I'd like to encourage our readers to either participate in the sport as a way to relieve tension or watch the sport as a source of knowledge to resolve everyday conflicts. Professional wrestling - the greatest benefit to modern society! - George Mann  
((Well, there you have it. Whether you wanted it in the first place or not. Next month we'll have David's reply, as well as any letters this may generate (and I'm not holding my breath...))